

CHSNAA
The White Cap and Alumni News
2015-2019

THE



WHITE CAP

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Charity Hospital School of Nursing and Delgado Charity School of Nursing

HOMECOMING 2015 EDITION

Volume 47 Spring 2015

From the President

By Bryan J. Camus '12

I finally get it! It took me awhile, but I get it now! You see, recently I was present at a major university's commencement and for the first time I understood what the professors and administrators and support staff feel when they watch all of those men and women walk up the steps of the stage as a student, and then walk down as a graduate. It's a new beginning for those graduates, a whole new life! And the professors, administrators, and support staff helped make that walk across the stage a reality.

This put my passion for the Charity School of Nursing in a new perspective. I am not an educator or administrator but, as an alumni, I am a support person. And so are you! With our membership in CHSNAA, with our 50/50 raffle ticket purchases, with our silent auctions, with our donations, with our presence at alumni functions, with so many things that we do as alumni, we are helping Charity students toward their goal of a new life. We give encouragement, we give support, and, yes, sometimes we even give cash (with scholarships, student activity funds, etc.). Then these newly minted Charity Nurses go out into the world and do the incredible things that Charity Nurses do. We help make that happen!

Homecoming 2015

As a recent graduate active in the Alumni Association, I'm always learning about and newly experiencing the many traditions of the school. For example, I've never been to a Charity Homecoming before!

I am really looking forward to Homecoming 2015, coming this October! If you've been to one in the past, you don't need me to tell you how much fun they are. (In fact, you can tell me all about it!) But, if you've never been, this is the one to come back for!

I never lived in the old dorm, and I never did a rotation at Charity Hospital. But I am deeply intrigued by them! I



Charlene Persich '74 shows off her new Charity duffel.

want to know more about the fascinating history of the hospital and the School of Nursing. (What was it like to see the nuns come gliding down the hall in those white habits and crisp, starched wimples? What was it like to do a rotation on a 40-bed ward?)

So, if you're like me, or especially if you do have your own experiences to remember, this is going to be a really fabulous Homecoming!

Visit the School and the Past

First of all, you get to visit the school - really visit, like go in the Skills Lab and play with the manikins - you will be amazed at the technology! You can tour the whole building, even tour the old dorm (I can't wait!). While you're here, you can also watch the beautiful and heartbreaking film, "Big Charity: The Death of America's Oldest Hospital." If you loved old Charity, or especially if you know very little about her, you need to see this awe-inspiring film! I talked to a couple of current students who had seen it recently and they said it made them cry. These are kids who are hardly old enough to remember when Charity was open! That's how moving it is.

Continued on page 2

From the President

Continued from page 1

Then, though you can't visit the hospital, you can step back in time and imagine you are walking into the newly built Charity Hospital of the 1930s. Because we're going to the magnificently restored Lakefront Airport Terminal, and the alumni who have visited the building say it gives them chills because it looks and feels so much like Big Charity! It's breath-taking!

Most of all you have a chance to see your old classmates - and to make new friends among the many generations of Charity. I am constantly delighted by the amazing people that make up this Alumni Association, and I want you to get to know them, too. And let me tell you, they know how to have a party! So, join us for Homecoming 2015! Details are on page 12.

Scholarships

We were able to award an amazing \$7,500 in scholarships and awards this spring - because of your generosity, alumni! The winners, chosen for their achievement in academics, clinical work, and community involvement, are listed to the right, and pictured below.

The Scholarship Committee just finished interviewing applicants for the fall scholarships, and now is the really hard part - making the decisions! We have over forty terrific applicants for just a handful of awards. Somehow we always seem to manage to have a couple extra to give, because our members always come through for us! It is so gratifying when someone like **Gloria Ashman '46** tells us how important she feels it is to help current students - and we truly appreciate it!

More Projects

Your memberships and donations help us do so much during the year. We are able to

Continued on page 5

Spring 2015 Scholarships and Awards

From top, left to right, front row, LEVEL 2 - Sister Blanche McDonnell Scholarship \$500: **John Osterman**; Sister Camilla Gaudin Scholarship \$500: **Renee Issawi**; Gloria Redmond Ashman '48 Scholarship \$500: **Amy Finnegan**. Back row, LEVEL 3 - Hugh and Maria Garcia Roach Scholarship \$1,000: **Claudia Paguada**; Leona Hilbert Scholarship \$500: **Ashley Zapata**.

Next photo down, Federation of Registered Professional and Licensed Practical Nurses of Charity Award, RN program: **Jekeitha Cook** (not pictured: **Erica Jacobs**, PN Program). LEVEL 4 - Marcelle Jacobs Wright Scholarship \$500: **Markeshia Williams**; Joan LeVasseur '60 Scholarship \$400: **Destiny Marie**, Jeansonne Scholarship \$500: **Mallory Mechler**; Sally Cooper Alumni Scholarship \$1,000: **Vantrelle Coleman**; (not pictured: Mary Ann Signorelli Whynot Scholarship \$500: **Toya Smith**).

Bottom photo, LEVEL 4 Pin Awards - Peggy Nicaud Prosser '73 Pin Award \$100: **Tracie Kaplan**; Dr. Maxine Blackmon Jones '59 Pin Award \$100: **Elizabeth Blappert**; Ruth Wallace Pin Awards \$100 each: **Kristine Wilson** (not pictured: **Kari Campbell**); Patricia Pittman Brue '95 Pin Award \$100: **Victoria Rein**; Connie Bousquet '78 Pin Award \$100: **Yanyan Shen**. ♦



Alumni Luncheon for Dedicated Party People!

It was the second day of Spring, a beautiful, sunny day after a gray winter, and Charity Alumni were, as always, ready to celebrate! After weeks of partying for Mardi Gras, St. Patrick's Day, Super Sunday and St. Joseph's Day, you know the group who made it to the March Alumni Luncheon was the truly hardcore! We wouldn't miss a Charity event!

We spent our usual hour socializing (and hitting the bar!) while everyone registered, bought souvenirs, and took chances on a raffle for a framed print of Charity Hospital donated by **Gerard Oncale '93**. Special treats at the souvenir table were Mailbox Door Banks (which we haven't had for sale in a while) and those great Postcard Zipper Bags that **Patrick Brady '83** whips up for us. Patrick is always the trooper, manning the souvenir table at every alumni event, and we really appreciate it! Of course there was an antique cape for our silent auction, as well as a 50/50 drawing to enter!

Hannah Russell and **Delinda Hawkins**, two students from **CASN**, the Charity Association of Student Nurses, were there selling t-shirts and sweatshirts to raise money for the group who plan to attend the national student nurse convention. We are really looking forward to seeing these students as part of the Alumni Association soon!

Ursula Allain '65 gave a warm and unusual invocation set to the letters C-H-A-R-I-T-Y (see page 7). We took a moment to say a little prayer for **Elizabeth Knight Vanderwall '42** who had been looking forward to attending the Luncheon, but her daughter called that morning to say Elizabeth had fallen ill and couldn't be there. President **Bryan**

Camus '12 (in his newly purchased Charity t-shirt) and Secretary **Joycelyn Jeansonne '78** led the Roll Call of Classes and started off by recognizing **Melba Chaplain '48** as the most senior alumni at the Luncheon.

The **Class of 1957** won the day for the most in attendance with a very enthusiastic group of nine classmates!

We love to see all our old classmates, but the

Continued on page 4



From top: Marilyn Hammett '78 and Connie Imhoff '65; Joan Hodge '75 (center) with students Jonesiha Davis, SGA V-P, and Vantrelle Coleman, SGA President; Marianne McCrory '68, Suzy Andry '59, Sandra Robert '56, Judy Ross '68 and Goldie Huguenel '56.



Luncheon *Continued from page 3*

Luncheon was also a time to make some lasting new friendships. The son of the late **Carrol Turner '56**, Dr. John Hart, Jr., had contacted the Alumni office, and (since he, his wife Kim and his brother Stewart were coming in town for a wedding) we invited them to drop by the Luncheon to meet some of Carrol's old classmates. **Saundra Owens Robert '56** and **Virgis Verret Bourgeois '56** were both there, and they had been close friends with Carrol! Saundra remembered spending many weekends during nursing school with Carrol and her parents at their cottage in Waveland, and she had tried unsuccessfully to track down the family since Carrol's death. It was a wonderful reunion, and the Harts ended up staying for lunch and a good visit.

Another family member of a Charity graduate had a role at the Luncheon. **Fritz Warren**, husband of the late **Barbara Minga Warren '55**, sent money for two tickets to the Luncheon and asked that they be used for students to attend in memory of Barbara. It touches our hearts to know that Fritz understands the connection we all have to Charity, and he wanted Barbara to be there in spirit.

Dean of the School of Nursing, **Dr. Cheryl Myers**, reported that the current enrollment is an astounding 645 RN students, with 150 due to graduate in May! With Louisiana facing devastating budget cuts, she encouraged the alumni to contact our legislators in support of adequately funding colleges and universities.

We always have mixed feelings when great teachers retire, but we really must celebrate the many years of service given to the school by **Joan Hodge '75** (31 years) and **Alma Evans-Herron** (33 years). Faculty member **Barbara Zeugner** led us in recognizing their contributions to the school (and let us in on a lot of details we never knew about the early lives of these amazing ladies). They will be sincerely missed at the school, but we wish them well. Joan has agreed to join the Advisory Committee for the Alumni Association!

Nominating Chair **Alice Brady '64** reported on the election, and new officers and Board Members were installed. Bryan will continue as President, and Ursula will continue as Treasurer. **Patrick Reed '90** takes the reins as Nominating Committee Chair. **Charlene Berger '79** and **Amber Stokes '13** join the Board. Alice asked that the other board members continuing in their positions be recognized: Secretary **Joycelyn Jeansonne '78**, Board Members **Patrick Brady '83** and **Roberta Bartee '66** and **Marilyn Hammett '78**, President Emeritus.



Mary Jo Johnson '74 won the framed Charity print, and Marilyn Hammett won the cape auction. Charlene Berger won \$138 in the 50/50 drawing, and generously donated her winnings to the Scholarship Fund! After door prizes were distributed, we closed - as always - with the singing of the Alma Mater. Our spirits were raised high indeed, and we look forward to seeing each other again in October at Homecoming! ♦

From top:
Beverly Cazayoux '61,
Cynthia Wagley '72,
Patrick Brady '83;
Dr. Cheryl Myers,
Alma Evans-Herron
and Barbara Zeugner;
Melba Chaplain '48.





From the Executive Director

By Lista Hank '97

Every five years, we have Homecoming, and it's a big deal! The students, faculty, staff and multiple generations of alumni gather together to celebrate the traditions and the future promise of Charity School of Nursing. It may not be some special anniversary of your graduation, but don't wait to come back home to Charity! Call up your classmates and say, "Let's go!" Grab hold of your colleagues (you know the Charity grads!) and say, "Come on!" It is such an amazing and inspirational experience, and it's a ton of fun, too! Read about the great events we're planning on page 12 - and order your tickets today!

Brick Deadline Extended to July 15

Our last brick installation was three years ago. We have promised that all the brick orders that we receive by **July 15, 2015**, will be installed in time for Homecoming! So, if you have EVER considered buying a brick, NOW IS THE TIME! If you have NEVER thought about buying a brick, NOW IS THE TIME TO THINK ABOUT IT! Honor your favorite teacher. Say your class is the best. Show your love of Charity, and your BFFs too! If you miss this deadline, it could be another five years or more until our next installation. DON'T DELAY! The order form is on page 6.

More Hot July Deadlines for Cool Stuff!!!!

Don't miss these cool items: On page 9, we're having a Silent Auction for Saints Pre-Season tickets. You bid by email and the **deadline is July 20**, so check that out right away! On page 22, learn how to order a Homecoming t-shirt so you can wear it in October! Our teespring campaign runs from **July 1 to 21**.

Dues

If you haven't paid your dues for 2015, please renew your membership - or join us for the first time. Our membership dues are the lifeblood of this organization. Dues help with our many projects, but they also fund our Alumni office so we can continue to publish and mail our newsletters, keep up our database, and maintain our website. All of this helps us keep in touch with you and thousands of other Charity graduates throughout the country and around the world. If you value having an Alumni Association, please help us by paying your dues.

Annual dues start at only \$15 a year and they do so much! Fill out the form on page 23 or go to our website at **www.CharityAlumni.org**. You can include your dues with your Homecoming tickets - and just write one check - or send them separately.

Check Your Mailing Label

Yes, we know! This didn't work on our last mailing. When the *Alumni News* was sent out in November, the

mailing service left everyone's membership information off the labels. It caused a lot of confusion - for which we apologize - but this time it is all there! **The number immediately after your last name on your mailing label indicates the year your membership expires.** For example, "Mavis Monroe 2015" means your membership is current for 2015.

If your label has a "0" or a year earlier than 2015 (such as "2012"), you are overdue to join or renew!

If the numbers on your label are 9999, you are a Lifetime Member; 8888 is a Sustaining Member; 7777 is a non-alumni Friend. If you are in these categories, you do NOT need to renew your membership, but donations are always welcome.

Thank you - and see you at Homecoming! ♦

From the President

Continued from page 2

sponsor students for the New Orleans District Nurses Association (NODNA) Student Nurse Night, an important introduction to their professional organization. This spring, the keynote speaker was our own **Patrick Reed '90**, now President of NODNA, who encouraged them to pursue leadership roles in nursing and emphasized how rewarding it can be.

We were able to help CASN, the Charity Association of Student Nurses, attend the national convention in April. You can read more about that on page 14, and give a donation for next year's trip on page 23!

Seniors Graduate

I wasn't able to attend Professional Issues Day and serve lunch for the seniors this semester, but I want to thank those alumni who were there! I hear from so many recent graduates about how important that lunch was in connecting them with the Alumni Association. I'm looking forward to seeing many of those May 2015 graduates at Homecoming! It is so great every year to see the new crew as they receive their pins and are launched into their new career. I feel so optimistic for them, and I know they will find the satisfaction so many of us have found in nursing.

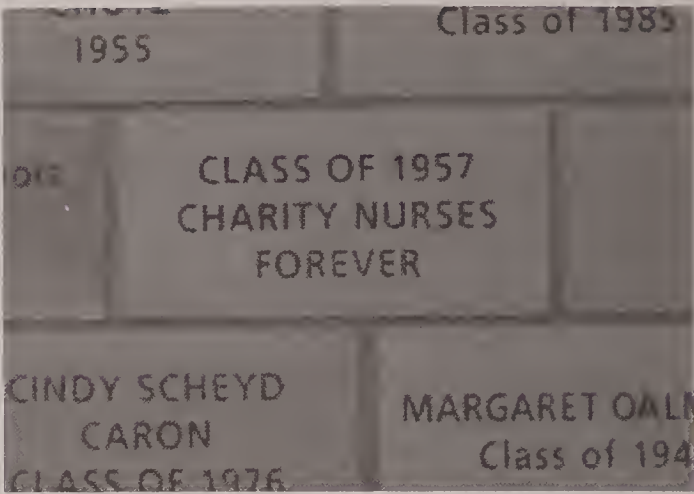
You may wonder sometimes what these new graduates have in common with you or others who graduated decades ago. How can they really share the same connection to Charity? But the Spirit of Charity is so much more than living in the dorm or working in the hospital. I think it is in the hearts of our alumni who give so generously to help current students. And I think it is in the heart of every student who is touched by that generosity. "I am a Charity Nurse" is a connection we make across those decades. Each of you make Charity live on. I get that now - and I hope you get it, too!

So, come back home to Charity this October! ♦

Your heart will always be at Charity.

Why not add your name?

A Commemorative Brick is a great way to say, “I’m proud to be a Charity graduate.” The bricks are mounted on a wall in the courtyard off the nursing school lobby. Funds raised by brick sales provide support for educational enhancements at the school. When you purchase a brick, you (or your gift recipient) will receive a certificate suitable for framing. Order a brick for yourself, as a gift, in memory of a classmate, in honor of that special teacher, or to show your class pride. You can see the wall online at our website: CharityAlumni.org.



SPECIAL DEADLINE: Any brick order received by July 15, 2015, is guaranteed to be installed in time for Homecoming in October.

It may be five years or more before we install another group of bricks, so you don’t want to miss this chance to see your brick in place. If you’ve ever thought about buying a brick, now is the time to do it!

Brick Engraving: Use the grid below to write clearly and exactly how you wish your engraving to read. Maximum is three lines with 20 characters per line. (If you want all caps, only 16 letters will fit per line.) Please write one letter per block, and leave one block for a space between words. Spaces and punctuation count as characters. All lines will be centered on the bricks.

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
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| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

Purchaser’s Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zipcode _____

Send certificate to (circle one): PURCHASER GIFT RECIPIENT

If sent to gift recipient, name of recipient _____

Gift recipient’s mailing address _____

City _____ State _____ Zipcode _____

Examples:

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| K | a | t | h | y | | T | u | l | l | y | | G | o | d | f | r | e | e | y |
| C | l | a | s | s | | o | f | | 1 | 9 | 8 | 8 | | | | | | | |
| P | r | o | u | d | | C | h | a | r | i | t | y | | N | u | r | s | e | |
| S | U | S | A | N | | S | C | H | A | F | F | | | | | | | | |
| F | a | c | u | l | t | y | | 1 | 9 | 7 | 5 | - | 2 | 0 | 1 | 4 | | | |
| D | e | d | i | c | a | t | e | d | | T | e | a | c | h | e | r | | | |



Mail this form with your check for

\$100.00

for each brick to:

CHSN Alumni Association
450 South Claiborne Ave.
New Orleans, LA 70112

or order online at www.CharityAlumni.org

School of Nursing: Dean's Report

By Cheryl Myers, PhD, RN
Executive Dean, CSN Campus/Dean of Nursing

Greetings from the School of Nursing! It is the time of year when we send another group of well-educated, well-prepared graduates into the workforce. The Class of May 2015 finished up the semester by completing their final clinical practicum, preparing for the NCLEX-RN by participating in a three day review course at school, submitting job applications, and finally with 141 seniors participating in the Pinning Ceremony on May 15!

Student Awards

The students recognized for their achievements at the Pinning Ceremony were: **Joneisha Jenkins** - Charity Honor Pin; **Vantrelle Coleman** - Award of Distinction; **Tanya Sordelet-Taylor** - Sister Stanislaus Malone Award; **Adonis Cordero** - NODNA Leadership Award; **Amanda Hagar** - Highest GPA. Five students received Theresa Bittenbring and John Henry Marque Fund Student Nurse Awards of \$2600 each: for Fall 2014 - **Mercedes Goings** and **Kellie Roach**; for Spring 2015 - **Amanda Hager**, **Rachal Bourgeois** and **Jennifer Magee**.

Of course, the faculty were also very proud to present the two Alumni Awards at Pinning. The **Sister Blanche McDonnell Alumni Award** went to **Melissa Sayles**, and the **Margaret Palmisano Alumni Award** was presented to **Vantrelle Coleman**. The faculty really appreciate that the alumni give us these additional opportunities to recognize outstanding graduating seniors each semester.

Thanks to the generous donations of many alumni, six students had the cost of their pin covered by former graduates who recognize how special the occasion is (and how extra financial assistance can help with the many expenses associated with graduation and licensing)!

A Busy Campus

It has been a busy semester all across campus. There were 645 RN students at Charity this spring, as well as 80 LPN students, and 20 CNA students! Seven members of the Charity Association of Student Nurses, CASN, recently returned from the National Student Nurses Association Convention in April, a valuable learning experience made possible with the generous support of the Alumni Association.

Faculty in Leadership Roles

One of our faculty members, **Patricia Smart**, was inducted in November as the president of the Organization for Associate Degree Nursing, the national advocacy group which promotes and furthers associate degree education. The work of OADN is invaluable to community colleges in promoting collaboration and

academic progression for nurses at all levels.

New Building Still to Come

As I shared in the last *White Cap*, the College will have \$35 million available from a bond issue through Act 360 of the 2013 legislative session to establish a new Nursing and Allied Health campus in the Biomedical District in downtown New Orleans. We are still working on determining a location and are looking forward to having a state-of-the-art facility to prepare the next generation of nursing leaders. I hope I have good news to report when I see you at Homecoming this fall!

The students in the program continue to amaze us with what they are able to accomplish given all of their responsibilities. Many are juggling work, care of children and/or parents and school, but still manage to meet the rigorous requirements of the program. Thanks to you for the many scholarships and emergency assistance grants that the Alumni Association provides for them. Your support often makes the difference in whether or not a student can afford to continue in the program, and for that, we are most appreciative.

Thank you for your unwavering support of our students and our program as we work to continue the tradition of excellence of the Charity nurse. I wish each of you a safe, relaxing summer as we look forward to the Homecoming Celebration in October! ♦

An Invocation for Charity

By Ursula Allain '65

- C is for Cherished friends, which we have been blessed with through our years at Charity Hospital School of Nursing and Delgado Charity School of Nursing.
- H is for Hard work, one of the ethics that was instilled in us, that with hard work and perseverance, anything is possible.
- A is for Adventures, which we have enjoyed in our personal and professional lives.
- R is for Rain, for without it we would never enjoy the rainbows in our lives.
- I is for Individuals, which we all are. As with snowflakes, no two of us are alike.
- T is for Togetherness, that wonderful feeling we share with our cherished friends. We may not see each other for months or years, but we pick up as if we saw each other every day.
- Y is for Yet, for we are not yet finished. We look forward to the students of today and tomorrow, who will carry on the traditions and heritage of being a Charity nurse.

All of these together embody the spirit of being a graduate of Charity, a place near and dear to our hearts. Let us continue to hold high the torch we bear for Charity! ♦

Members of Note

SUSTAINING MEMBERS

Gloria Redmond Ashman '48
Sherrill Hooper Millard '50
Rowena Smith Christensen '51
Celina Machin Haynie '51
Betty Ogea Moore '51
Hazel MacKillican Wilson '52
Marijean Martin Pruett '54
Rita Jo Neary Ellsworth '55
Mary McBride '57
Esther Ogea Doucet '60
Joan Arceneaux Levasseur '60
Frances Petho Aponte '61
Joan Bero '63
Barbara Johnson Roger '63
Dorothy Russell Stagg '63
Penny Kistler Tolchin '63
Geraldine Bourgeois Daigle '64
Janette Foy Forsythe '64
Judith Wellman Quigley '64
Linda Sue Grimme Fontenot '65
Beverly Poche Chapoton '67
Jean Hageney Houin '67
Karen Moulliet '67
Peggy Portie Parigi '67
Betty Schweitzer Touns '67
Dr. Marelle Yongue '67
Louanna Cardinale Whiddon '67
Barbara "Bobbi" Bonner Folse '68
Charlotte Arras '71
Marian Foret Offner '71
Jo Ann Rizzutto '71
Dorothy Paxson Barker '72
Pat Lindsey Mancuso '72
Rosalie Parenton Vincent '72
Rose-Mary Alexander White '72
Dennis and Lynel Pinkozie '73
Mary Iannazzo Trosclair '73
Susan Duhon '74
Charlene White Persich '74
Mary Susan Le Compte Farrar '75
Julie M. Joyce '75
Vicky P. Kent '75
Barbara McClees '75
Joseph Nigliazzo, Jr. '75
Graciela Pinto-Leyva '75
Jeannette Milligan Saal '75
Jan Carrio '76
Bryanne Murray Hamill '76
Lane E. McAlister Pierce '76
Myra Lee DiGange '77
Sheila Perrault Dahlgren '78
Marilyn Nola Hammett '78

Joycelyn Jeansonne '78
Sandra Tracy Bailey '79
William Borne '79
Vickie Morrow Gibert '79
Karen DelValle Tampira '79
Claudette Boudreaux '80
Belinda Hutchinson Janeski '80
Cydney Trahans Begnaud '81
Elizabeth Kelly Carlini '82
Renee Rago Schuller '83
Patricia Dufrene '85
Elaine Riecke Bergeron '86
Gina West Ragland '86
Kevin Besse '91
Michael Harrison '92
Betty Trosclair Loumiet '92
Craig A. Cedotal '94
Mitzi Ridgdell Arnold '93
Margaret Johnson Jackson '96
Brenda Shields Simmons '96
Elizabeth Scanlan Bowen '97
Lista Hank '97
Cynthia Fernandez '10

SISTER STANISLAUS 2015

Grace Spedale Ladd '46
Dorothy Sumrall Livingston '50
S. Joanne Philbrook Newton '56
Frances Spicola Cummings '65
Patricia Darcy Weed '68
Ginny Graves Clark '69
Patti Rouchon Burcham '70
Camille Bourgeois Whittaker '70
Kathy Garrand Rolston '71
Patrice Polito Bruno '72
Jamie Walker Jensen '75
Melissa Day Meyers '76
Evelyn Trenary Wirstrom '79
Renee Bridget Guidry '87
Milagros E. Yap '89
Christine Yvette Smith '08

SILVER STAR 2015

Dolores Marsh Alford '51
Carolyn Ross Brakefield '54
Marion Thibodaux Gatti '54
Leona Lipari Lee '63
Marilee Keating Phillips '64
Connie Young Imhoff '65
Brenda Crump Trosclair '68
Gayle Guerin Fertitta '70
Pam Elias Welsh '70
Camille Bourgeois Whittaker '70
Joan Damon-Simon '71
Maria Compagno Roth '71
Rosemary Hemelt '72
Stephanie Laws '73
LaVerne Birdsall McCormick '73
Kay Beaulieu Kinney '76
Cathryn Parsons Smith '78

Estelle Collins Vincent '85
Lauren M. Terrio '96
Emily Clouatre '97
Tonya Mayeux Solis '97
Anne McCutchen Silverstein '98
Megan Caldwell '12
Bryan J. Camus '12

BLUE RIBBON 2015

Margaret Middlebrooks Horn '46
Virginia "Jackie" Ourso Hines '49
Patricia L. Danks D'Aloise '50
Mary Katherine "Kitty" Mollere '52
Velma A.B. Rohla '53
Barbara Cobb Walters '53
Laquaita Joy Deshotel Hill '54
Gail Braud Decoteau '55
Nancy Mynihan Comish '57
Kathleen Lee Taylor '57
Millie Nash Vilmerding '58
Rosalie Nicolosi Collura '59
Anna Martino Meinert '59
Betty Stevens Bowers '60
Judith Lohr Dauterive '60
Elizabeth Germain Guillot '60
Beryl Ann Forgey Olhasso '60
Mary Arnod Gardner '61
Jeanette Mackey Bourgeois '62
Judith Guion Barousse '63
Phyllis Bourgeois Beeching '63
Camella Patti Christensen '63
Lynne Gordon Cook '63
Saundra Deaton '63
Yvonne Gauthier McGaha '63
Brenda Rabren Putman '63
Alice Chambers Brady '64
Dixie Berlage Fabre '64
Donna Dupont Cooper '65
Diane Blumberg Howell '65
Linda Aucoin Hutchinson '65
Yvonne Ellender Hawthorne '66
Paulette Gallant Gravois '67
Evelyn McClees McNeil '67
Carolyn Desselle Righter '67
Cynthia Mouret Schexnayder '67
Bonnie Glover Williams '67
Lorraine Babin Fearheiley '68
Cynthia Hebert Liebel '68
Judy Lafleur Ross '68
Patricia Murphy Solomon '68
Earline Chauvin Watson '68
Mary Landry Bocz '69
Hughetta Ann Dennis '69
Francine Taaffe Dyer '70
Dianne Theriot Clavin '71
Katherine Manuel Landreneau '71
Maylia Pourciau Langlois '71
Sarah Percy LeBlanc '71
Patricia LaFleur Lewis '71

Continued on page 10

Lunch for Seniors on Professional Issues Day

The seniors wrapped up their semester with a day of group presentations about issues they will face in the workplace, such as safe staffing levels, delegation, impaired nurses and drug abuse, and the advantages of continuing their education. The Alumni Association provides lunch for the seniors on this Professional Issues Day. It's a great opportunity to encourage them to be involved in the Alumni Association.

Wedon Brown '10, Ellen Manieri '77, Mary Trosclair '73 and seniors **Vantrelle Coleman** and **Joneshia Jenkins** poured soft drinks and helped serve jambalaya and salad. The seniors were given membership cards to the Alumni Association (their first year of membership is free), and we had a drawing for door prizes. We look forward to seeing all the May 2015 graduates at future alumni events, and we want to share with you a couple of the notes we received.

"On behalf of the Level 4 students, we want to thank you for providing us with lunch for Professional Issues Day. Your kindness and generosity do not go unnoticed. Thank you so much for all that you have done.

With Sincere Gratitude,
Joneshia Jenkins, SGA Secretary
Vantrelle Coleman, SGA President"

"We would like to tell you how much we appreciate the Alumni Association providing lunch for the graduating students on their Professional Issues Day. It is such a wonderful opportunity to address the future alumni and get them started as members. Knowing the food situation at Charity, it is so easy for students to have lunch and return to the day's events without having to look for outside lunch. The alumni are so generous in providing this and we (students, faculty and myself) are thankful. Please let everyone in the Alumni Association know that their generosity is valued.

Warm Regards,
Mary Barrow
Level 4 Interim Coordinator" ♦



Silent Auction for SAINTS Pre-Season Tickets

Once again **Dr. Paul Hilbert**, son of the late **Leona Kruebbe Hilbert '46**, is offering two Saints pre-season tickets for auction to benefit the scholarship fund he established in his mother's honor.

The winner of the silent auction gets two great tickets in the Sideline Endzone, Section 307, Row 17 (nice, cushy seats with cup holders!). These are in the Loge Level Club section and include access to

the Bienville Club Lounge and premium concessions.

Best of all, you can choose from two games! The **New England Patriots** (defending Super Bowl Champions) vs the Saints on **Saturday, August 22** (time TBA), or the **Houston Texans** (with J.J. Watt and Jadeveon Clowney) vs the Saints on **Sunday, August 30** at 3pm.

The face value of these tickets is \$320 for the pair. This is a silent auction, that is, you won't know what others are bidding, so make your best offer. The bidding closes at **10:00am on Monday morning, July 20**. Your bid must be for the two tickets together - not individual tickets. The starting bid is \$100.

Email Bid by July 20

Bids will be accepted only through our email. Simply email your bid to **chsnaaoffice@gmail.com**. Please put "**Saints Tickets**" in the subject line. The winner will be notified by email immediately after the close of bidding, and arrangements made for payment to the CHSN Alumni Association. The winner will be emailed the Ticketfast tickets from the Saints' season ticket Ticketmaster website.

So bid high to win! Go Saints! ♦

Outstanding Donors

Gifts of \$100 or more to Restricted Funds since The White Cap 2014

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Roberta Purvis Bartee '66

Alumni Scholarship Fund

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Patricia Darcy Weed '68

Student Activities Fund

Anne Blinn Faist '54

CASN Convention Travel Fund

Gretchen Hill '50
Jan Carrio '76



Members of Note

Continued from page 8

Deborah Edwards Bolotte '72
Agatha Authement King '72
Phyllis G. Landry Saucier '72
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Sherry Smith Simmons '73
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Carol Palmisano '75
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Suzanne Delhomme Lemoine '77
Perry J. Meche '77
Karen Howard Smith '78
Jacqueline Jenkins Gamble '79
DeeAnne Posseno Jewell '79
Patricia Lane '79
Patricia Hampton Tillman '80
John S. Bertucci '81
Nancy Allebone Capponi '81
Melissa Manuel Deshotels '81
Debra Watson '81
Brenda Poche '82
Robin Napoli Bowman '83
Joell Ackerman '84
Patricia Abadie Ashton '85
Nancy Coleman Coffey '85
Mary Sue Sargo '85
Veronica Gautreaux Theriot '85
Victoria Gigliotta Fortier Washofsky '87
Deena Dodge Rabalais '90
Patrick D. Reed '90
Frances Gagliano Loeske '92
Patrick Gerard Oncale '93
Angelique Hagmann '94
Regina Danner '97
Roxanne LeBlanc McNally '97
Susan M. Rowell '98
Gina A. McNemar '03
Susan Wentz '11
Colleen Carroll Hagyard '13

Received after The White Cap 2014

SISTER STANISLAUS 2014

Carolyn Bartsch '70
Patricia Pittman Brue '95

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Marion Thibodaux Gatti '54
Mona Robicheaux Rojas '57
Lynda Vance Montagne '58
Vera Hoyt Copeland '64
JoAnn Pierce Ligon '66
Nina Wills Long '68
Bonnie Hensley-Mowe '70
Stevie Reese McLaughlin '71
Connie Bousquet '77

Elaine Schulz Navaille '78
C. Delana Hall '79
Nancy Coleman Coffey '85

BLUE RIBBON 2014

Patricia Daigle Swafford '45
Patricia L. Danks D'Aloise '50
Irene Broussard Stagg '50
Peggy Briese '55
Virginia Cage Shemwell '60
Mary Arnold Gardner '61
Jeanette Mackey Bourgeois '62
Linda Bass '63
Mary Bettie Unsworth Nolin '63
Suzanne Strahan '64
Kathleen Hynes Hug '65
Lorraine Andry Penrod '66
Ellen Inguagiato Olivier '67
Mary Reck Andrulot '68
Judith Webb McNeil '68
Karen Parr Moise '68
Patricia Murphy Solomon '68
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Martha Jones Pachciarz '72
Myra Diaz Cheramie '73
LaVerne Birdsall McCormick '73
Rabetta "Birdie" Barras Touchet '73
Donna Vidrine Brown '74
Christina Blanchard Higdon '74
Fay Boudreaux Stevenson '74
Joan Hodge '75
Sharon Keller Louque '75
Guiomar Goransson '76
Elaine Schexnayder Launey '76
Robert Martinez '79
Carol Way Gonzales '80
Jeanette Robinson '80
Denise Becklehimer '82
George Martinez '82
Connie Thompson-Fly '82
Cynthia Larmeu Edwards '83
Veronica Gautreaux Theriot '85
Laurel Bland Henry '86
Joni Barrett Waggenpack '87
Marie Joseph-Brown '88
Gina Rosselli Herrera '90
Patrick Reed '90
Kathleen Hyzy '92
Angelique Hagmann '94
Ward Miller '96
Susan McWalters Rowell '98
Margaret Schorr '98
Karen Bulanowski Cook '01
Nana Delgado Coggin '02
Robin Beniger Reese '06
Jason Werner '12



Where Are They Now?

SPOTLIGHT ON:

Doris Burvant '60

By Ann Burghardt-Dieck '80

A living legend is defined as someone who is extremely famous during the time they are alive. That description could be shortened to just two words: Doris Burvant. Scores of Charity graduates have shared the school's halls with this amazing individual, and know the value of her legacy.

A South Carolina girl, Doris hails from Summerville, near Charleston. She came to New Orleans in 1957 for the sole purpose of attending nursing school. Caring for her mom as a youngster awakened her nurturing nature but it was her aunt, a nurse, that most influenced her decision to make nursing a life long choice.

Student Years

Doris remembers her student years living in the dorm, obeying her house-mothers, hunting for flash lights and meeting mandatory nightly bed checks. "I never missed one," she is proud to report. She reminisces that caring for patients at Charity Hospital during those years was very rewarding. "The patients so appreciated everything you did for them...that meant so much."

After graduation in 1960, Doris and four fellow graduates joined the faculty under Sister Blanche and taught Fundamentals of Nursing for a whopping \$300 per month. In 1961, she took on the added responsibility of serving as Health Nurse and as a substitute clinical instructor earning her an additional \$50 per month.

Doris was kept busy balancing her personal and professional life. Marriage led to the birth of two sons, in 1963 and 1967. Raising a family and teaching at Charity didn't keep her from continuing her education. Doris earned a Bachelor's Degree from Steven's College in Missouri, a university without walls, holding classes at Charity School of Nursing. How quickly the years flew by...

In 1990, Doris became Assistant Dean to Sally Cooper. In this role she oversaw all Student Services and continued in the classroom teaching "Trends in Nursing." It was not until 1998, forty-one years from the first time Doris attended Charity School of Nursing as a student, that she retired - an icon - in 1998. Doris credits the great leadership of Sally Cooper during her time in

administration of our great school. Seeing the three-year diploma program morph into the two-year Associate Degree program is but one of the milestones of her tenure.

Return to Charity

Not able to go too far, Doris' love of Charity brought her back in just three years. She began working part time as the Executive Director of our Alumni Association in 2001 and continued until 2010, overseeing many Breakfasts and Luncheons and Homecomings, rebuilding the Alumni Association after Hurricane Katrina and witnessing so many changes at the school.

Retirement has not been a time of respite for Doris. After losing her husband in 2000, she became acquainted

with Karen, a woman who founded a support group for bereaved spouses. After Katrina, their friendship grew into a business partnership as the two of them began flipping houses in New Orleans East. Today they remain great friends and have decided to buy a home together and share their golden years.

An avid reader and book club member, Doris states she prefers books with a basis in fact. "I want to learn from books; I don't really care 'who done it'." She recommends the works of Ken Follet. "There's so much history imbedded in his stories. *The Edge of Eternity* really gave me an insight into what was going on behind the scenes in the 1960s."

Still Volunteering

Most of the time, you can find Doris volunteering in support of her community. With the Slidell Rotary Club she has helped to rebuild a number of Senior Centers, with the church she helps to feed the poor, she is engaged in fund raising activities for non-profit organizations such as the Boy Scouts and the Fire Department. Her time is juggled between multiple meetings, but travel is also an important part of her life. Last year she enjoyed a Mediterranean cruise, and future travel plans include a visit to Germany and return trip to Paris. Despite her busy life, Doris has not forgotten us. She still attends the Alumni Breakfasts and Luncheons each year and continues to be an active member of the Alumni Association as a member of the Advisory Committee.

Doris' closing remarks to me were, "I want to be sure you understand that my time at Charity School of Nursing was a wonderful job. But it was the students and the faculty - the people and the caring that made it so special." Well Doris, we want to be sure you understand, you have touched forty-one years of graduates and are known to many. We all are grateful to have walked our halls with you and are proud to call you colleague, mentor, instructor, classmate and - most important - friend. ♦



Charity Homecoming 2015

Cherishing the Past, Celebrating the Future

October 17 & 18



Saturday Morning, October 17

Come Back Home to the School of Nursing

Charity School of Nursing, 450 South Claiborne Ave

Registration opens at 9:30am. Enjoy a continental breakfast as you register, greet your classmates, check out your class photo, visit the patio and look for your Commemorative Brick, peruse the scrapbooks and archival displays, take a few selfies and pictures with friends, meet the faculty, enter the raffles, bid in some very exciting silent auctions, and select from an intriguing array of cool souvenirs!

At 10:30am, we will convene for a delightful program of welcomes and updates, familiar faces, and a few surprises! After the program,

we will present a screening of the award-winning documentary film "Big Charity: Death of America's Oldest Hospital," the exhilarating and heart-breaking history of the hospital and its closure after Hurricane Katrina. At 12:30pm, have a nice lunch, then go for a tour of the school and the old dorm - strolling down memory lane while seeing all the changes and new technology - and take a few minutes to record your memories for our oral history project.



Saturday Evening, October 17

A Faded Beauty Restored to Glory

**Lakefront Airport Terminal, Walnut Room,
6001 Stars and Stripes Blvd**

6:00pm to 9:00pm. It was the 1930s, and the WPA would put eight-million unemployed Americans to work building public facilities in every community across the country. In New Orleans,

two architectural masterpieces by the WPA marked the beginning of the modern era in New Orleans - the new Charity Hospital and the new Lakefront Airport Terminal. Charity Hospital was a state-of-the-art monolith of 2000 beds, the largest building in the city; Lakefront Airport was the first major airport in the region. The Terminal was an Art Deco wonderland - murals by Xavier Gonzalez, extraordinary bas-relief sculptures by

Enrique Alferez, and a dazzling array of decorative work on floors, walls and ceilings. Recently restored, it is not only breathtaking, but hauntingly evocative of the beauty and majesty of Charity Hospital in its prime. With so much uncertainty about the future of the Big Charity building, it is exalting to see this sister structure so lovingly brought back to life! Take in the glorious facade as you arrive just at sunset, then enjoy a delicious



buffet supper from Messina's, music, and socializing with friends old and new. Cash bar. Free parking.



Sunday Morning, October 18

Breakfast on Canal Street

JW Marriott Hotel, 614 Canal Street

Doors open at 9:30am, breakfast served at 10:30am. Join us for an eye-opening brunch at the elegant and gracious JW Marriott Hotel, and continue the fun with your friends and classmates. We'll have the roll-call of classes, special souvenirs for the class with the most in attendance at Homecoming, 50-Year Certificates, door prizes, 50/50 drawing, close of the raffles and silent auction, and so much more! Cash bar. Valet parking. A limited number of hotel rooms have been blocked for the Charity Alumni Association at a discounted price until September 1.

Make reservations by calling Marriott Reservations at 1-800-228-9290.

Saturday Morning 10/17 at the School of Nursing\$30 per person

Saturday Evening 10/17 at Lakefront Airport Terminal.....\$70 per person

Sunday Morning 10/18 at the JW Marriott.....\$40 per person

Three-event discount package..... \$130 if paid by October 1

**Use the form on page 23 to purchase your tickets by mail
or order online at www.CharityAlumni.org**

Once you purchase your ticket, we will send you a Homecoming packet including maps to venues, parking options, suggestions for getting around town, and more! Please order early! We cannot guarantee admission to these events for ticket orders received after October 9. No discount available after October 1.

CASN Members Attend National Convention

Seven members of CASN, the Charity Association of Student Nurses, attended the National Student Nurses Association Convention in Phoenix this April. The convention is a valuable educational opportunity for students as they participate in the House of Delegates and take in seminars on their future profession. The students bring plenty of information back to their classmates, so the value of their attendance is multiplied across the student body.

The Convention has a serious purpose, but it's not all work, and the students were able to make a quick visit to the Grand Canyon as well.

CASN students work all year with activities to raise money for their travel expenses, but financial assistance from the Alumni Association is essential in helping so many make the trip. Generous contributions from alumni make it possible. Here are notes the Alumni Association received from three of the students.

"I cannot begin to express my gratitude for your helping me and my peers attend such an inspirational event. Having the opportunity to mix and mingle with other students in the same shoes from across the country was an experience to remember. This convention allowed me to see that this profession is limitless with possibility. Watching a few of the keynote speakers and hearing that they had started with an ADN gave me the confidence to know that furthering my education is not only feasible, but important to being the best nurse within my power. Thank you again for all your support of CASN. I aspire to carry the legacy of being a Charity Graduate throughout my nursing career."

Hannah Russell
Class of Dec. 2015

"Thank you for giving me the opportunity to represent Charity School of Nursing at the NSNA convention in Phoenix. I attended numerous meetings and plenary sessions where I learned about many different aspects of nursing. I was really interested in seeing the different topics that were brought up in the House of Delegates. These topics were submitted by students, discussed, voted on, and adopted or



rejected. This experience opened my eyes to many different possibilities, important topics, and programs to enhance my education in nursing. I would of never known about forensic nursing, for instance. It was empowering to listen to speakers who started off with an ADN and who now have their PhD and are involved in so many organizations. Thank you again for this opportunity!"

Vanessa Fayard
Class of Dec. 2015

"Thank you A MILLION times for your contribution to our Convention trip! Without your help, this trip would have been too expensive for me to attend. As a student who is not yet sure about what area of nursing to pursue, the exposure to so many different specialties, organizations and schools was GREAT! Attending the NSNA Convention opened my eyes even wider to nursing and was a most encouraging experience. Thank you again and again for this wonderful gift!"

Delinda Hawkins
Class of May 2016 ♦



Top, CASN visits the Grand Canyon; bottom, left to right, CASN faculty advisors **Mary Trosclair '73** and **Carol Leefe '92**, and students **Aimee Nisse**, **Delinda Hawkins**, **Tracie Kaplan**, **Vanessa Fayard**, **Toya Smith**, **Hannah Russell** and **Adonis Cordero** at the NSNA Convention.

Alumni News and Notes

Shirley Harris Galatas '56 (*Clearwater, FL*): "I loved the article in the *Alumni News* about **Goldie Huguenel '56**, and the article by **Saundra Owens Robert '56** about creating the Sister Camilla Scholarship."

Kathy Roberson McNutt '56 (*Mulberry, FL*): "Oh, how I enjoyed the article about Goldie Huguenel of my 1956 class! I am ordering another afghan and print of the Nurses Residence due to their loss when our home burned in 2011. We were in Florida attending a grandson's graduation when we got the phone call that lightning had struck our home in Alabama and it was burning! We lost generations of antiques and mementoes from 55 years of marriage, but at least my beautiful CHSN cape survived! If anyone has a 1956 yearbook, I would love to be the recipient of it. After the fire, we relocated to Florida to be near our three sons (not much to move!). I have had a lifetime of nursing in many facets of work, from my favorite ER to DON and midwifery!"

Elaine Gauthreaux Edens '63 (*Jackson, MS*): "I came to New Orleans to attend the graduation of my daughter from LSU Nursing School, and dropped by the school. It's good to revisit old memories from my nursing school days!"

Lynn Burton Rosenblatt '66 (*Marietta, GA*): "When I decided to enroll at CHSN in 1963, someone said that I would use my Charity education in ways that I would never imagine. Over the course of nearly 50 years, I have worked as a staff nurse at the bedside, in a university-based student outpatient clinic, as a social worker with abused children, and in administration as director of case management, utilization review, risk management and quality management departments. At 70, I fully expected to be retired, but I am still gainfully employed and working with regulatory compliance and insurance in clinical matters. CHSN provided me with a very substantial clinical foundation which has served me well in all the above roles, and for that I am forever thankful. I hope to see many of my classmates at our 50-year reunion in 2016!"

Patti Rouchon Burcham '70 (*Destin, FL*): "*The White Cap* not only keeps us connected to our past, it also represents the future of bright, young graduates. I feel it is so important that we 'pay it forward' so that the legacy of Charity will continue for many years to come. What has not changed over the years is that special 'spirit' of

Charity graduates and their dedication to one of the noblest professions. Even those who no longer practice nursing donate their time to worthy and charitable causes. Thank you to our Alumni Association Board Members and the alumni 'journalists' for providing dedicated service to all of us and for keeping the past connected with the future. By the way, I was one of Miss Spratt's students sent back to my room to polish my shoes and trim my nails! Among so many things, she taught us the importance of discipline, professionalism, to respect our appearance, and to be punctual."

Joan Cousins Damon-Simon '71 (*Fort Bend, TX*): "After a short time in the Navy, I secured my first Head Nurse position in Pediatrics at West Jefferson Hospital in Marrero. In 1977, I moved to Texas and worked as a Pediatric Head Nurse, then became the Assistant Director of Nursing at a new hospital in Katy, Texas. I worked there from 1981 to 1985 and even had three sons at that hospital. Though I worked the day shift as the ADON, I would come in at night to start pediatric IV's...back then I could start an IV on a cue ball!



I earned a Master of Business Administration (Focus in Health Care Management) from Our Lady of the Lake University in Houston. When Houston Methodist Health Care Systems opened their first non-medical center hospital in Sugar Land, I was named their first CEO in 1997 and participated in the start-up of the first Health Center. I was responsible for planning, organization and growth of the facility. I hired the management team, developed medical staff relationships, developed the Board of Trustees, and collaborated with system contracting department to coordinate with medical staff and support negotiations with managed care providers and the Health Center.

The facility opened March 1998. I directly supervised the Directors of: OR/PACU/Day Surgery, Radiology, Quality Management, Medical Staff Services, ER, Med/Surg, Education, Birthing Center plus approximately 150 FTEs. By 2000, I was responsible for a \$17 million operating budget. I'm proud to say that the Center boasted the highest patient satisfaction scores in the Methodist Health Care System during its first 27 months of

Continued on page 16

Alumni News & Notes

Continued from page 15

operation.

Since then, I served as CEO for several long-term acute care hospitals in Houston and St. Louis, Missouri. I now am Operations Manager III for Methodist Academic Medicine Associates, part of the Houston Methodist Specialty Physicians Group. I manage 40 MAs, 6 LVNs and 2 infusion RNs; coordinate on-boarding for all new providers working in the clinic; serve as RN for the Department Chair and help manage his 300 thyroid cancer patients; and serve as Secretary to the Endocrine Nurses Society.

I have been a member of five not-for-profit community boards, and participated with staff nurses on a Care Van to administer immunizations to children living in underserved areas of Fort Bend County. I have co-chaired fund-raisers to support big Brother/Sisters of Fort Bend and the George Family Development Center. I received the Fort Bend Chamber of Commerce annual Award for Outstanding Service and Strong Commitment to the Community.

I have worked for the last 43 years and I have no intention of retiring any time soon! As you can see... I received 'The Best Basic Training' at Big Charity!"

Vicky P. Kent '75 (Baltimore, MD): Vicky is Clinical Associate Professor, and Coordinator of the Associate to Masters program at Towson University in Baltimore. She was named Outstanding Nurse Educator in Maryland in 2006 by the Maryland Nurses Association. She was also recognized as one of the Top 50 Nurses in the greater Baltimore region in the May 2015 issue of *Baltimore Magazine*.

In March, Vicky was profiled by WJZ, her local CBS affiliate, for their online program *Get to Work, Baltimore*.

"Looking at my education, you can see how nursing has changed and evolved in the last 40 years.

I began with a traditional diploma in nursing. It was hands-on, difficult, I wouldn't trade that experience for the world. I always related the most to the nurse as the first responder - someone who needs the ability to assess a problem right away, who must educate the patient and his family, who has more responsibilities than I could list! What a great career!" She soon realized, "I found joy working in the community," and wanted to focus on



community health and public health policy. She pursued a BSN from William Carey University School of Nursing in Hattiesburg, MS, and a MSN and PhD from the University of Maryland School of Nursing. The PhD led to teaching at the university level. Asked for her advice to others looking to become nurse educators, Vicky replied, "Professor Joseph Campbell advised his students to follow their bliss, and I cannot do better. If you care about the world, take a moment to recognize how you can lead a happy life and contribute in some positive way in the world, and then do it."

Roxane Dunham '82 (Bath, ME) stopped by the School of Nursing while she was in town in April and gave us a \$100 donation. "When I was in school, Sister Genevieve had a 'secret fund' and I was the recipient of her generosity when I graduated. She was concerned that I would not be able to purchase my graduation uniform. In honor of Sister G, please give this donation to a needy Charity student."

Below are some memories shared in the "Sign-In Book" at the front desk of the School of Nursing:

Jean Altice Blake '58 (Muncie, IN): "Too many memories to list! I met my future husband from Indiana here and I'm still a 'hoosier,' but he has passed (15 years ago today!). He would have loved to have been here, too."

Kenny Sue Didier '64 (Madisonville, LA): "Yippee, Old Charity!"

Virnita Ladner Mountain '64 (San Antonio, TX): "I gained ten pounds my first year. Lots of peanut butter and jelly sandwiches served every night."

Susan Regner Noll '64 (Fort Pierce, FL): "I remember my roommate and I arrived in the city several days before the school opened. We got in trouble because we were 'out on the town' at the YWCA and not under the control of the nuns at school!"

Marilee Keating Phillips '64 (Louisville, KY): "I learned how to smoke my first year of nursing school. I had never taken an exam during high school, so I was told that the way you study for an exam is to drink coffee, smoke, and stay up all night! I failed my first exam."

Judith Wellman Quigley '64 (Irvine, CA): "On November 23, 1964, I came back to the dormitory for lunch from my psychiatry rotation. When I got to my mailbox, somebody said, 'Did you hear? President Kennedy got shot!' Instead of eating lunch, I went to my room and a bunch of us watched Walter Cronkite on TV.

Continued on page 17



Gloria Ashman '48 a Strong Supporter of Charity Students

Gloria Redmond Ashman graduated from Charity Hospital School of Nursing in 1948, part of the Cadet Nurse Corps in World War II. She is a strong supporter of the Alumni Association as a Sustaining Member, and has been a generous contributor to our Scholarship Fund that benefits the current students at Charity. In recognition of her support, the Alumni Association named a scholarship in her honor. "I am glad to be able to help the students at Charity," says Gloria. "My training was made possible through the Cadet Nurse Corps or I would not have made it. I feel that I owe others help." One student that Gloria has helped is Amy Finnegan, who wrote this note to the Alumni Association.

"Dear Alumni,

I am writing with humility and profound gratitude that I was awarded the Gloria Redmond Ashman Scholarship. This scholarship has allowed me to continue my studies as a student at Charity School of Nursing and not have to worry about the financial burden that comes with being a full-time nursing student. I want to thank you for your generous award and I am greatly appreciative to be the recipient of this award.

I am honored and privileged to walk the hallways of Charity School of Nursing and humbled every day by my experiences with the faculty, my professors, and my peers.

Left, Gloria Ashman '48 and friends; right, Amy Finnegan.



I have made lifetime friends here and have always felt at home and welcomed. Winning this scholarship reinforces what I already know: I am blessed to be part of a well-respected school with a well-

known reputation. I will continue to strive for excellence with my goal of being part of the Class of May 2016. I hope to one day be a lifelong member of the Alumni Association, and make donations that will change the lives of students in the same way that you have changed mine.

I am forever grateful and will never forget the moment that I accepted this esteemed recognition.

With gratitude,
Amy Finnegan"

Alumni News & Notes

Continued from page 16

Then I went back on duty. Several of the psych patients were sad and crying because they thought maybe they were responsible for his death. That weekend, the dorm was quiet. We all sat around TVs and watched, and cried when John-John saluted his father."

Joan Gary Stanton '64 (*Walnut Creek, CA*): "This reminds me of signing in 'the book' after the Charity Ball, and I was still smashed. It was my first year. I was in the Beauty Court and I didn't drink, but my date kept giving me 7&7s - I had no idea what they were! The next morning I was summoned to Sister Pauline's office, and I had to call my parents and tell them what I'd done. I was mortified!!! After that I was on campus for weeks - up at 7am sign-in - reporting in full uniform every two hours except when on-duty or in class. I was Miss Charity Hospital in my senior year and did not repeat my PC year. Had lots of fun and learned so many things I used in my years of nursing. I worked OR for 40 years - I loved it! I'm more than proud to be a Charity grad!!"

Penny "Munster" Turberville '64 (*Theodore, AL*): "Fond memories... no air conditioning! The patients were great - they would get up and take care of each other and us students! We were always understaffed, but it was the best place in the world to train - and still a source of pride!"

Continued on page 21

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Jenn Garnand '11
Joan Hodge '75
Leslie Hughes '96
Rhonda M. Johnson '97
Vivian Manes '70
Ellen Williams Manieri '77
Rebecca Roques McCalla '78
Patrick Gerard Oncale '93
Emily Ovalle '13
Margaret Palmisano '49
Beth Wininger Pesses '76
Sharon Robinson
Judy Lafleur Ross '68
Christine Y. Smith '08
Lisa Stokes-Hasten '78
Mary Iannazzo Trosclair '73
Susan Wentz '11
Barbara Zeugner
Vantrelle Coleman, SGA President
Adonis Cordero, CASN President



Keep in Touch:

Charity Hospital School of Nursing
Alumni Association
450 South Claiborne Ave
New Orleans, LA 70112
504.571.1395

Email:
chснаAAoffice@gmail.com

Website:
www.CharityAlumni.org

Facebook:
Charity Alumni NOLA

See more photos at:
<http://charityalumni.shutterfly.com>

Shutterfly is a photo-sharing site. You do not have to join anything to view our photos. Use the above address to go directly to our site (a web search for Shutterfly won't get you there.)



Members who join or renew at the \$25 level or above receive their choice of gifts: a personalized CHSNA A pocket planner, a Delgado Charity decal, or a vintage postcard of the dorm. Use the order form on page 23, or pay securely online at our website:

www.CharityAlumni.org

Goodbyes

"My mother, **Mary Labry Koch '96**, passed away on May 17, 2014. Besides her family, the thing she loved most was being a nurse. She spent the majority of her career as a



home health nurse going above and beyond to make sure her patients received the best care possible. She would give up her free time doing extra things for her patients such as giving them a pedicure or picking up their prescriptions for them. She was very proud of being a nurse and her accomplishments, such as being director of nursing for a home health agency. My mother was truly one of God's angels sent to do

this work. She was so giving and kind even to complete strangers. She would often pay for a random person's bill at the store just to see the joy on their face. She left behind a husband, three children, and three grandchildren with the best memories any one could ask for. She was loved by so many and is deeply missed."

- from Alicia Breaux

"I was married to **Barbara June Minga '55** from June 15, 1957 until she left this life on September 9, 2013 - some 56 years. Barbara was selected as Miss Charity Hospital the year she graduated. She was always proud of being a graduate of the Charity Hospital School of Nursing and of later teaching at the school. Barbara worked as a Registered Nurse at St. Vincent's Hospital in Jacksonville, Florida, while I was serving in the Marine Corps in Okinawa, Japan. She received her Bachelor of Nursing Degree from Hawaii Loa University in Hawaii, and then received her Masters Degree in Southeast Asian Studies from the University of Hawaii. She lived with her family on the Island of Java, in the Republic of Indonesia for ten years, where she became an expert in Indonesian Textiles, and lectured widely on such textiles within the United States. In Indonesia, she volunteered as a Nurse with the Naval Medical Team (NAMRU) which was developing methods of defeating a disease known as schistosomiasis.

My sister, Anne Warren Montgomery was also a graduate of the Charity Hospital Nursing program. My mother, Agnes, and another sister, Margaret, were also Registered Nurses. We are obviously a Nursing family!

Barbara will, of course, miss gathering with her Charity friends but I am ordering two tickets for the Alumni

Luncheon, so that current students may attend, in honor of Barbara Minga Warren, and the wonderful institution where she learned to devote her life in caring for other people, including her own three children."

- from Fritz Warren, USNA Class of 1957
U.S. Marine Corps, (Ret.)
Kailua-Kona, Hawaii

Lorraine LaBarre Horton '47: "I was born a Fort Sill Apache in 1925 at the Kiowa Indian Hospital in Lawton, Oklahoma. My mother was Fort Sill Apache, and my father was Comanche. After graduation from high school, I took the train to New Orleans where I entered Charity Hospital School of Nursing. After graduation, I was



convinced by an obstetrics/gynecology doctor at Charity Hospital to go with him to Berea, Kentucky, to work in the operating room. Later I returned to New Orleans to work at the Ochsner Clinic. They must have liked me in Kentucky, because I was called by Good Samaritan Hospital

in Lexington and returned to work there. As a side job, I flew out to small outlying towns in single engine planes, often landing in cornfields, to help perform operations in the local hospitals.

While in Berea, I met a student and volunteer fireman, Sam Horton, from eastern Kentucky. We married in 1949. Sam got a job with the Ford Motor Company in Louisville, and worked there for 33 years. I had three children, all of whom I am happy to say are alive and doing well. I worked in a variety of surgical specialties from neurosurgery to cardiovascular to orthopedics. Most of which was with the Jewish Hospital. Eventually I found myself working for Dr. Kutz, who in 1955 pioneered microsurgery of the hand. I became his primary scrub nurse for a number of years before retiring in 1987. Through 1992, I returned periodically to help out Dr. Kutz. I was very proud to have been one of the instructors of the microsurgery courses for surgeons learning those skills.

After we both retired, my husband Sam and I traveled all over the country and had a very full and happy retirement life. We learned line dancing, played tennis, and volunteered at an Alzheimer's Unit. My husband had

Continued on page 21

Reunions

The **Class of '65** will be having their Fifty-Year Reunion at Homecoming, but there are other classes due for reunions in 2015. How about it 1990, 1975 and 2005?

Not from those classes? You don't have to wait for some special anniversary year to get your friends together - and Homecoming is a perfect time!

If you are interested in organizing a reunion for your class, please contact the Alumni Office at **chsnaaoffice@gmail.com**. We will be happy to send you a class list with all the contact information we have.



Lost Alumni

*The names listed here are graduates for whom we no longer have addresses. If you can help us find any of these lost alumni, please contact the Alumni Office at 504-571-1395 or email us at **chsnaaoffice@gmail.com**.*

1990 - Twenty-Five Years

Kathy Jenkins Armentor
Royalene Neville Banks
Deidra Bruce
Nadine Doiron Dupaquier
Steven Egle
Wandalyn Fields
Kathryn Fuentes Figueroa
Charlene Goszczynski
Lisa Maurice Grose
Felice Mitchell Guimont
Angela Robert Hebert
Pamela Breaux Helmstetter
Nancy Brennan Jochum
Jeanette Watkins Kisse
Jennifer Paysse Kondracki
Elaine Major
Sandra Terlium Maltese
Angela Stein McLaurin
Carla McNeely
Dana Young Ospina
Natalie Williams Pierson
Joseph Richard

Toni Robert Rougeou
Anna Silas
J. Patrick Soileau
Erica Forstall Timmonr
Kimberly Tennyson Tircuit
Trudy Sconza Villarrubia
Leslie West

1975 - Forty Years

Shonna Granger Black
Nancy Moon Bourgeois
Laura Kelly Brill
Patricia Wittz Canton
Lois Powell Chutz
Alberta Cohan
Camille Suess Compton
Deborah Hebert Ellender
Joy Peterson Faddis
Gwendolyn Defiore Fauchaux
Joellen Hatch Grass
Margaret Rooney Gray
Brad Guidry
Sharron Hayes Harlan
JoAnn Raborn Hingle
Karen Pecka Karagat
Debora Koppi
Connie LaBruyere
Barbara Albritton Lagenbeck
Gwen Berry Lowe
Karen Lannan Lyons
Marie Barlow McCalla
Venus Hall Moore
Jane Spratly Odenheimer
Barbara Abney Phemister
Rebecca Mattock Poole
Mary Lambert Schexneider
Pamela Palmer Smith
Berniece Savell Smythe
Rebecca Norman Speakman
Mary Ann Leitz Spitz
Elizabeth Fradella Steddum
Jeannine Williams
Karen Doyle Woolie

2005 - Ten Years

Christa Alsup
Jessica Bacino
Keeonna Willams Batiste
Heather Debate Broom
Karen Ritter Burlet
Latoya Cains
Kimberly Chaney
Natalie Guidry Collins
Isabella Crais

Majorie Dalton
Jennifer DeBlonde
Zellisha Dejean
Terri Dimitry
LaQuinta Finister
Tyisha Firstly
Barbara Vollenell Forrest
Melanie Barberot Fulmer
Trinetta Charlet Gausha
Lisa Sarrat Gordon
Stacie Gutierrez
Jennifer Hebert Harrison
Phyllis Reno Harrison
Laura Jaramillo
Tammy T. Kerner
Trina Blanchard Knecht
Amy Kulivan
Janelle LaBlanc
Corey Jayne Laborde
Shantel Ramsey Laraque
Valentina Alvarez Leonard
Keila Tyler Lewis
Sena Logan
Naomi Matulich McConahay
Jessica Oakley McIntosh
Danielle Narcisse
Christine Nelson Pittman
Deborah Nuccio
Rachel Callais Garcia
Tracie Pentacost
Stacie Robison Porcuna
Darrell Porter
Erin Potter
Andrea Rollins Pozzo
Alicia Preatto
Chrystal Quest-Pierre
Gina Rancatore
Beth Rodriguez
Tiffany Schroeder
Michael Shephard
Kendra Smart
Patrice Sylve
Rochelle Thompson
Minh-Thu Tran
Melissa Trouard
Claudia Vine
D'Chaka Wallace
Kelly Wheelchan
Sharlana Wilson
Denise Windsay
Rebecca Antoine Zornes



**Like Us on Facebook:
Charity Alumni NOLA**

Goodbyes *Continued from page 19*

a stroke in 1992 and our lives become very hard but he learned to use the computer, and early on he was still able to travel. He died in our 55th year of marriage, in 2004. In 2010, after living alone for a number of years in our home in Louisville, I moved to Claremore, Oklahoma, where my son Sam and his family were living. Eventually I moved into assisted living and really enjoyed it. I had my own furniture and my cat and was able to travel quite often. I loved visiting New Orleans and went to Mardi Gras almost every year. I loved the party! In 2014, I got sick and the night of October 12, I could not go on. It was peaceful, and in my last hours I looked at pictures of my family, our farm, childhood pictures of the kids, and Mardi Gras. My daughter was playing "When the Saints Go Marching In", "Amazing Grace", and other New Orleans music that I loved on her phone. Now I am gone, but I am with my husband and other friends and family. Remember me, tell stories of me, and I will live forever."

- Submitted to us by Lorraine's son, Sam Horton, who writes: "My mother brought me to Mardi Gras when I was 5 years old, and I brought her back most of the last 20 years. We would always stop by the School of Nursing and the dorm when we came to New Orleans. Mom loved New Orleans, and her time at Charity, and she loved being a member of the Alumni Association."

"I wrote you last year about my mother **Marie Jardell '41** (who died in 2008), and that my daughter, Katie Morris, was in nursing school at the time. I told you I planned to give her my mother's Charity pin when she became an RN

herself. Here is a picture of Katie proudly wearing her grandmother's pin. The faculty at Ivy Tech in Lawrenceburg, Indiana, where Katie completed her studies, were so impressed with the pin that they asked that I bring it to the graduation ceremony. Just a few days before graduation, the class had been shown a short film about the courageous nurses at Charity Hospital following the horrible



aftermath of Hurricane Katrina. Of course, their dedication and selfless actions very much impressed Katie and her classmates. When Katie's name was called, she was shocked by the special presentation of her grandmother's pin from New Orleans' Charity Hospital School of Nursing! Many of her classmates and teachers were moved to tears. I know that my mother would be so proud and

happy to know that the legacy of Charity lives on today. Katie, of course, has her own school pin, and my mother's pin has a place of honor in Katie's room. I also got Katie a Charity afghan and badge holder as graduation presents; she loves them and the connection they have to her grandmother. My family will definitely be making a trip to see my mother's brick at the school... and, of course, enjoy the sights and food of New Orleans. A year or two after Hurricane Katrina, my family made a trip to Brocato's because it was so special to my mother. She grew up on a farm near Vinton, Louisiana. New Orleans held such wonders for a small-town girl and Brocato's was one of her favorite places. She was also on the basketball team at Charity. In her professional career, many doctors commented on how well trained Mom was. She was so proud to be an RN from Charity Hospital School of Nursing."

- from Elizabeth Morris

In Memoriam

- Rosa Lee Ensminger Savoie '46 (2/25/15)
- Sara Forsmark Ford '47 (12/2/14)
- Lorraine Lebarre Horton '47 (10/12/14)
- Zula Mae "Boots" Burnham Cox '48 (11/20/14)
- Sadie Harris '48 (12/8/14)
- Clemy Hart Gonzales '49 (2/10/15)
- Gloria Davis Crawford '50 (1997)
- Edna Fayette Utterberg '52 (2/22/15)
- Joan Anderson Blankinship '56 (2/1/15)
- Effie Davis '56 (3/19/10)
- Sandra Hale Simpson '65 (4/17/08)
- Frances Spicola Cummings '65 (4/26/15)
- Karen Treas Tyson '67 (12/31/14)
- Rose-Mary Alexander White '72 (4/15/15)
- Georgia Garrett-Klingman '79 (12/27/14)
- Mary Labry Koch '96 (5/17/14)
- Kent Paul Waguespack '97 (11/18/14)



Alumni News & Notes

Continued from page 17

June Breaux Ellender '76 (Houma, LA): "I remember finishing my Peds shift on May 3, 1975, and the flood that day. I remember being stranded at the dorm. I also remember C500 during nursing school and working there after graduation. I still remember the patients on that floor. Thank you for the memories for THREE generations of Charity grads!" ◆

Charity T-Shirts at www.teespring.com July 1- 21

We are experimenting with using the website **teespring.com** to offer Charity t-shirts for sale! There will be three designs available: a **Homecoming 2015 tee** (you have to go to teespring.com to see it!); a reprint of a **classic CHSN tee** from the 1980s; and a design with the **Charity Hospital seal**.

Teespring works this way: we open a "campaign" that runs for 21 days. Starting **July 1**, you can go on the teespring website and order your Charity shirt. On **July 21**, the campaign will end, and the shirts are printed and shipped. You will receive your shirt in 7 to 14 days after the campaign ends, plenty of time so you'll have it to wear to Homecoming!

So, **in July**, just go to **www.teespring.com**, search for "Charity Nursing," and make your choice - or order all three! Prices start at \$20 and depend on the shirt style you choose, plus \$3.99 shipping & handling.

The shirts won't be available at Homecoming - you must order online in advance - but we will take additional orders at Homecoming to be mailed to you later. So order your shirts during the July campaign so you can enjoy wearing them right away! ♦

Share Your Memories

In one of the display cases at the school, there is a card entitled "Life as a Student in 1923" written by **Marguerite Fitzsimmons Illg**. She details things like the alarm going off on all the floors of the dorm at 5:30am to wake the students up in the morning, the cost of having her uniforms cleaned at the Chinese Laundry, and the \$8 a shift she was paid to work in the hospital.

It got us thinking about how cool it would be to have a display at Homecoming of "A Day in the Life" across the many generations of Charity! What was a day like when you were at Charity? Starched caps - or mini-skirts? Learning to start an IV on a manikin - or on your classmates? The fun you had living in the dorm - or juggling your life as a single parent? Was your challenge to decipher physician's handwriting - or navigate electronic charting? It will be amazing to see how things have changed - and sometimes stayed the same!

Send your "A Day in My Life as a Charity Student," and any memories you'd like to share, to the Alumni office or email to **chsnaaoffice@gmail.com**. Even if you can't attend, you can share your recollections. We will also be recording oral histories at Homecoming, so think about the adventures you want to save for posterity! Here's a fun poem to jog your memory...

Exerpts from "Memories of the Class of 9-10-65" by Carmen Henesy

Sometimes it seems so long ago, sometimes just yesterday
That we crossed the threshold of Charity and started on
our way;

Fledgling nurses, full of ideals, and trepidation, too -
And hopes of romantic liasons at Tulane and LSU!

Studies seemed unending and homesickness knew no bounds.
We poured over volumes of texts while housemothers made
their rounds.

We memorized muscle insertions and assuaged our
hunger pains

With eggs scrambled in popcorn poppers and chicken from
Little Jane's.

We carefully dissected piggies and put ribbons on their tails
And hovered patiently outside boxes for each delivery of
the mails.

We stood back at elevators, letting upperclassmen get
on first...

Sometimes we gave up and climbed the stairs while inwardly
we cursed!

Charity's IV bottles - the home done kind,
Needles with burrs that killed one's behind.
Writing care plans, we turned them in with great pride;
And returned from lunch to find the patient had died!

Remember racing at night to return on time?
To be even a minute late was considered a crime,
Meriting a weekend campus where you signed in each hour
Wearing full Charity uniform and looking so dour!

Students at Charity dreamt impossible dreams;
Mine was to walk on the ward to find ice machines.
We constantly complained that nothing could be worse,
But misery turned to joy when patients called us "Nurse."

We were the ultimate in fashion, with uniforms
dragging the floor.

Our clinic shoes that weighed a ton could have
kicked down any door!

New procedures were checked off in our little books of blue,
And we avoided the Charity seal or we'd have been through!

Charity paid us a dollar an hour to slave on our days off.
We would tackle the 400 wards and never even scoff.
Or we'd work on psychiatry, locked in for eight hours
With schizophrenics galore in their community showers.

Gigantic cribs for OB patients, with med students
asleep in between -

And the accident room with its gun shot wounds and
worse calamitous scenes.

These were all part of Charity life, the time passed
much too fast.

Though we complained, we loved our years there -
the friendships will eternally last! ♦

You can use this form...

Or visit our website: www.charityalumni.org

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY!

Name: _____ Class: _____
First name Maiden (or Graduation name if different from current name) Last name

Street Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ E-Mail: _____

☐ I Want to Attend Homecoming 2015!

☐ Saturday Morning 10/17 at the School of Nursing\$30 per person

☐ Saturday Evening 10/17 at Lakefront Airport Terminal.... .\$70 per person

☐ Sunday Morning 10/18 at the JW Marriott Hotel\$40 per person

Or choose: ☐ The Three-Event Package: All three events for a discount price
 of only \$130 if you purchase by October 1st.

You must purchase your tickets by October 9th to assure your admission to any of the events.

☐ I Want to pay my Annual Membership Dues:

☐ \$15 Regular Membership

☐ \$25 Blue Ribbon Membership*

☐ \$50 Silver Star Membership*

☐ \$100 Sister Stanislaus Membership*

or ☐ Sustaining Membership: a one-time gift of \$500 (and never pay dues again).*

*Members at these levels please select your choice of:

☐ Personalized CHSNAA pocket calendar

☐ Delgado-Charity Nursing bumper sticker

☐ Vintage postcard of the old Charity Dorm

☐ I Want to make a Donation to the:

Art & Archives Preservation Fund..... \$ _____

CASN Convention Travel Fund \$ _____

Scholarship Fund..... \$ _____

Student Activities Fund..... \$ _____

Student Emergency Assistance Fund..... \$ _____

Other: _____ \$ _____

Mail this form with your check to:

CHSN Alumni Association, 450 S. Claiborne Ave, New Orleans, LA 70112



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INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Homecoming 2015 October 17 & 18

Details on Page 12

Brick Order Deadline.....Page 6

**Silent Auction of
Saints Pre-Season tickets....Page 9**

Charity T-Shirts for Sale.....Page 22

**Order tickets and renew your
membership.....Page 23**

Plus...

**Alumni Letters, School News,
and so much more!**

What is that number after my name?

Yes, we know this didn't work out the last time, but it works now! The number immediately after your last name on your mailing label indicates the year your membership expires. For example, "Jane Jones 2015" means your membership expires at the end of 2015. You are current, but you may want to consider renewing your membership now for 2016.

If your label has a "0" or a year earlier than 2015 (such as "2010"), you are overdue! Please join or renew your membership now.

If the numbers on your label are 9999, 8888 or 7777, you are in a special membership category (Lifetime, Sustaining or Friend) and you do NOT need to renew your membership.

If you have any questions about your membership, call or email the Alumni office.



Charity Hospital School of Nursing & Charity School of Nursing

Alumni News

Fall-Winter 2015

Charity School of Nursing, 450 South Claiborne Avenue, New Orleans, Louisiana 70112
Alumni Office 504-571-1395 chsnaaoffice@gmail.com www.CharityAlumni.org Facebook: Charity Alumni NOLA

From the President

By Bryan J. Camus '12

Wow! Words can't describe this Homecoming experience. This was my first Charity Homecoming and I had no idea what to expect. The passion, the enthusiasm, and the energy were contagious. The spirit and comradery were moving. But, above all, the generosity was breathtaking!

It was an incredible success and we avoided my biggest fear: What if you throw a party and NO ONE SHOWS UP?? Over 300 people showed up and proved how foolish my fears were!

I am always nervous with other people's money and all of us on the Board feel an extraordinary fiduciary responsibility with the Alumni Association's money because that money makes a difference in so many ways. The scholarships that come from it can make the difference between soaring success and dismal failure for many students who are struggling financially. The emergency student funds can provide both a helping hand and comforting support when misfortune befalls a student. The travel funds send students to the national student convention where they learn about leadership and the future of nursing. The money used to preserve the memory and mementos of Charity and all it stands for helps ensure that our core passions will never die.

So, needless to say, we were more than a little antsy about committing to the minimums required for our functions. What if enough people don't come and the Association has to make up the difference? Every dollar coming out of the Association's wallet is one less dollar to continue the mission the Charity Alumni has charged us with. But you blew past those minimums with plenty to



President Bryan Camus '12, center; left: Patrick Reed '90 and Roxanne Cali '75; right: Janice Samson '75 and Carrie Woodring '75; at the Lakefront Airport Terminal on Saturday night, Homecoming 2015, in October.

spare! You opened your hearts and wallets, replenishing the coffers beyond anything we dared hoped for!

And the people! The amazing Class of '65 celebrating their 50th anniversary, the prodigious Class of '75 celebrating their 40th. From **Elizabeth Vanderwall, Class of '42** - there to inspire us all! - to the Class of 2015, our graduates, family and friends were there to laugh, share memories, sing, dance and buy anything that wasn't nailed down!

I have to thank Dr. Cheryl Meyers and the faculty volunteers who were there to let us know what's going on with the students, and Chancellor Joan Davis and Vice-Chancellor Stanton McNeely, III, who expressed so much support and excitement about the future of the School of Nursing, and Alex Glustrum who was there to share the inspiring and heart-wrenching film, *Big Charity: The Death of America's Oldest Hospital*. And the CASN students who were everywhere, helping us make it a great →

From the President Continued

weekend to be a Charity Grad!

Thank you to the Board and Advisory Committee members who manned all of the tables, who assembled everything, who sold EVERYTHING, who packed and unpacked and cleaned everything, who counted everything, made suggestions, made phone calls, donated time, money and gifts, and who provided so much assistance & moral support! No contribution was too small and so many were greater than I could have believed!

When I tried to express my thoughts and feelings at the end of the brunch, I had to stop because my voice was cracking from the emotions I felt. When I was a child, my parents told me that I would be judged by the company I keep. I should be so lucky!

You may remember from my previous notes that I like my pop music references, and I am 'of a certain age' that usually relates to (*gasp*) golden oldies from the 60s to the 80s. However, with my head still buzzing from the excitement of the Homecoming, I HAVE to close out with something a tad more current. So to all of you alumni and friends who made this Homecoming so awesome, as Katy Perry sang, "Baby, you're a firework!" ☺

From the Executive Director

By Lista Hank '97

It was great to see everyone at Homecoming! It was so much fun to meet all the folks I've been corresponding with - by letter, phone or email. We had such a happy weekend!

There are over 400 terrific photos from Homecoming on our online photo-sharing site on Shutterfly. You can order prints, or just enjoy looking at the pictures - you don't have to join or pay anything to view them. Type this address into your browser:

<https://charityalumni.shutterfly.com/>

You can't get there by doing a web search for Shutterfly, you have to type in the exact address. Huge thanks to Dr. Kevin Jeanson for taking ALL the photos!

Big Charity Film

The Big Charity Film DVD is now available to our alumni online. Type this address into your browser to get to the order page: **www.bigcharityfilm.com/dvd**

Once again, you can't do a web search or just go to the Big Charity Film website because it's kind of a restricted page - the DVD is not available to the general public yet. Click on where it says "DVD \$25.00" and place your order. If the online ordering process befuddles you (it's a little tricky), just call or email me at the Alumni Office. I ordered a few extra copies and I can send you one.



T-Shirts

We will relaunch our t-shirts on the Teespring website again for anyone who would still like to purchase them. **They will only be available from January 1-21.** Go to **teespring.com** and search for "Charity Nursing," or check out our store at:

<http://teespring.com/stores/charity-alumni-nola>

The shirts will only be available for those three weeks, and depend upon receiving a minimum number of orders, so don't delay. I know this is not as easy as ordering shirts directly from us would be, but it means we don't have to pay money up front, or end up with a bunch of shirts in styles and sizes no one wants.

Once again, if you have a problem with ordering, email or call me (before January 21!) at the Alumni Office (*see below*) and I will be happy to order the shirts for you.

Our Website Makes It Easy

You can go to the Charity Alumni website and find links to all of these sites I mentioned. Go to:

www.CharityAlumni.org

The Shutterfly link is under "Homecoming 2015" and the DVD and t-shirt links are under "T-shirts and Other Cool Stuff." You can also shop for our other souvenirs, make donations and renew your membership. Several folks have asked if they could order the Homecoming centerpieces. They're not free now, but they are for sale on our website.

And while you're on our website, don't forget to order your tickets to the **Alumni Luncheon on February 27!** Join us for a lovely and civilized little Spring interlude after the Mardi Gras madness has subsided and before Easter comes hopping down the bunny trail... Hope to see you there! ☺



Charity Hospital School of Nursing Alumni Association

450 South Claiborne Ave.
New Orleans, LA 70112
504-571-1395

Email: chsnaaoffice@gmail.com
Website: www.CharityAlumni.org
Facebook: Charity Alumni NOLA

Charity Homecoming 2015 Soars

"The CHSN Homecoming was a success and you have the blessing of knowing you made us all smile that weekend. Charity nurses are truly gems and shine brilliantly everywhere they go!!" - **Cleo Garcia '75**

"The Homecoming was beautiful." - **Mary Singletary '49**

"I am still reeling from the reunion weekend. It was absolutely wonderful in every way. I will be back in 5 years for our 50th! Thank you for your tireless efforts and a most memorable weekend!" - **Francine Dyer '70**

"My first Homecoming and it was the best!" - **Shelley Nettles '86**

"Had a great time at Homecoming 2015. I know it's hard work pulling off something like this. Loved the location, food was good, and accommodations were perfect. Thanks a million." - **Betty Hebert '68**

"Thanks again for a great Homecoming weekend. The Class of '75 had a blast!" - **Donna Landry '75**

"I wanted to say Thank You for EVERYTHING that the team did to make this Homecoming such a memorable event. Words cannot express my sincere gratitude and appreciation to you all. Those from the '70 Class who attended were thrilled. We are going to work hard to have lots more at our 50th celebration." - **Patti Burcham '70**

"Best ever Homecoming!" - **Vivian Manes '70**

What else can we say? It was an amazing weekend! Friends and classmates from 1942 to 2015 joined together *en masse* - and then some - to celebrate!

Coming Home

It all started Saturday morning at the School of Nursing. Continental breakfast was served in the lobby, and alums could check out their class photos in the main hallway and find their Commemorative Bricks in the patio - 167 new bricks had been installed just the week before! Students from CASN, the Charity Association of Student Nurses, manned the parking garage, helped with registration, and welcomed everyone to the school. They handed out paper fans featuring the bas relief over the Charity Hospital door on one side and a short history of the hospital and the School of Nursing on the other.

Next we moved to the 7th floor gym for the program



The Class of 1965 celebrates their 50-Year Anniversary

where, if there had been chandeliers, alumni would have been hanging from them. Over 300 alumni and guests were there! CHSNAA President **Bryan Camus '12** welcomed all members, guests, faculty and students, and thanked everyone for such a great turnout.

School News

Dr. Cheryl Myers, Executive Dean of the School of Nursing, said she was humbled and honored to be among so many of the "greatest nurses." The School of Nursing is going strong with 625 students enrolled now, and 165 students slated to graduate in December. Dr. Myers talked about how important the Alumni scholarships are to the students and all the support given by the Alumni, saying that some students could not make it through school without the help of the Alumni. She thanked everyone for their generous support.

Dr. Stanton McNeely, III, Delgado's Vice-Chancellor for Institutional Advancement, began by saying how pleased he was to be at Homecoming. He spoke very highly about CSN, the students and faculty, calling the School of Nursing a Center of Excellence at Delgado and in the healthcare community. He especially praised the alumni for all of their support to the students, and praised the Alumni Association as "the best nursing alumni in the United States."

Big Charity Film

Alex Glustrum, director, and **Ben Johnson**,



Producer, were on hand to screen their award-winning film *Big Charity: The Death of America's Oldest Hospital*. There were tears in more than a few eyes as we watched the film, and the filmmakers received a standing ovation. Alex talked about the making of the film and stated that "one thing we learned was how incredibly important nurses are. They are the ones that made Charity Hospital so special."

Counting Down

Then came the Roll Call of Classes! **The Class of 1965** wowed us with 24 classmates in attendance for their 50th Reunion! But the **Class of 1975** bowled us over with 38 cheering classmates! The **Class of 1968** had 18 and the **Class of 1970** had 15! So many of the classes were there in strength – it was wonderful to see! **Class of 1942** graduate **Elizabeth Knight Vanderwall** (in her 90s) was given a standing ovation!

Many alumni came bearing gifts. **Kitty Bull '65** and her husband John donated a painting of Florence Nightingale that had hung in Sister Blanche's office (she had given it to librarian Julia Bull, John's mom.)

Sandra Robert '56 and **Anne Lind '51** brought their class photos which were missing from the first floor hallway. Anne also gave us her cape and yearbooks from her roommate. **Carolyn Reich '55** was unable to attend,

Left, Elizabeth Vanderwall '42. Below, Vantrelle Coleman '15, Dr. Paul Hilbert and Zinnia Macloud. Bottom, the Class of '75.



but sent along a treasure box of fascinating items for our archives, plus her uniform and cape!

Many alumni brought family members – spouses, grown children and partners. "My husband said he became overwhelmed at the sight of long lost friends reuniting once again," said **Cleo Garcia '75**. "He said he often heard me speak of my training days at Charity but after this weekend - he gets it!"

We were delighted to have in attendance **Dr. Paul Hilbert**, who with his family established the **Leona Kruebbe '46 and Dr. Gerard Hilbert Scholarship** in honor of their parents. The \$500 scholarship is awarded each semester and it was a treat for him to see two of the scholarship recipients at Homecoming: **Vantrelle Coleman, Class of May 2015**, and Level 3 student **Zinnia Macloud**, one of the CASN volunteers! →





Lunch and Tours

Cindy Beniger '68 led us in a glorious rendition of the Alma Mater – we raised our voices high! - then we enjoyed a New Orleans-style lunch of jambalaya. After lunch, tours of the school were led by the CASN student volunteers. Faculty volunteers were posted at stations around the school to talk to the tour groups about the curriculum and educational offerings such as the Human Simulation Lab. Alumni also headed to the library to record their Charity memories to add to the school's oral history. Many thanks to the wonderful CSN faculty and staff who made Homecoming possible: **Donna Bayard, Ann Dieck '80, Pam Kemp, Celeste Phillips, Marie Poche, Sharon Robinson, Cathy Strength, Mary Trosclair '73** and, of course, **Dr. Cheryl Myers**.

The dorm, now owned by LSU, was graciously made available for small tours by its manager, but he was a bit overwhelmed by the response! Alumni who waited in the long line felt a little disappointed to see that it no longer bore any resemblance to their old dorm, the interior having been gutted and rebuilt years ago.

Souvenirs & Raffles

Souvenirs and raffles are always an important part of any alumni event, and this was no exception. Eager buyers found a few new items – tile coasters with historical photos made by **Amber Stokes '13**, reprints of a 1904 Charity cookbook (the original donated by the family of **Julia Carmichel '04**), and wooden Homecoming 2015 ornaments.

There were three items for raffle: a framed print of Charity Hospital, and two framed cross-stitch pieces, beautifully stitched and donated by **Kathy Hug '65**, one featuring the diploma pin and one the →



From top, members of the Class of '79 and '80 at the Sunday Breakfast. Saturday night at the Terminal: **Ginger Andry '58, Doris Burvant '60 and Glenda Pitre '60; Donna Dauterive '83, Patrick Brady '83 and Louanna Whiddon '86; Joycelyn Jeansonne '78 and Patricia Dufrene '85**.



CSN pin. There was also silent auctions for an antique CHSN cape and a gorgeous Charity Nurse doll, created by **Sydney Womack '57** and donated by **Joan Guccione '57**. The bidding was spirited, but everyone had to wait until Sunday for the close of the auctions!

Jazz at Sunset

Saturday night we headed for the Lakefront Airport Terminal, a beautiful, recently restored, art deco building built in the same time period as - and hauntingly reminiscent of - Charity Hospital. A sunset view of the airport runways, a delicious buffet, and a terrific jazz trio made the evening truly memorable. Quite a few alumni were dancing to those romantic jazz classics played by the Andrew Wolfe Trio!

Sunny Side Up

Sunday morning, we breakfasted in style at the JW Marriott Hotel on Canal Street. Bryan had the group laughing as he told a story about trying to get a glass of wine at the Terminal the night before (*entre nous*, someone named Doris figured in...). He welcomed the over 200 alumni and guests who attended that morning. **Cheryl Crouse '78** gave a heartfelt blessing, then we enjoyed a lovely brunch.

CSN Report

Dr. Myers once again welcomed everyone and thanked all who were at the campus on Saturday morning. She told us that the graduating class in December would be one of the largest classes to date! She thanked the alumni for the \$8,000 in scholarships awarded in August as well as other support they provide for the students such as CASN convention travel and NODNA's Student Nurses Night. "Everyone wants to be a Charity graduate," she said, "because they are the best."

On-Going and On-Growing

Dr. Joan Y. Davis, Chancellor of Delgado Community College, began by thanking the alumni, saying, "You

raised the bar," and received a round of applause. She stated that the alumni are one reason the school does so well. She explained that she just got back from attending a meeting in California where she was asked for the scariest aspect of her job: "It's budget cuts and having to explain it to nursing!" she said. Dr. Davis described the best thing about her job as graduation and the pinning ceremony, because "the nursing graduates will save and change lives." She talked about a new building that will house Allied Health and Nursing together, saying she thinks of the future of the nursing program as "on-going and on-growing."

Roll Call Redux

Bryan Camus and Secretary **Joycelyn Jeansonne '78** conducted the roll call, and once again 1965 with 18 and 1975 with 22 topped the charts - but 1968 with 14 and 1972 with 11 were close behind! The **Class of 1975** had the most classmates registered for all of Homecoming weekend and were awarded special Homecoming calendars for their 40th reunion.

50 Years - So Far!

The members of the **Class of 1965** were called up individually to receive their Golden Anniversary Certificates in honor of 50 years of friendship and amazing nursing careers! **Ursula Allain '65** announced that her class had collected \$400 in donations to provide graduation pins for any students who could not afford to purchase them, which earned the class another round of applause from the assembled alums!

Raffle, Auctions, 50/50

A beautiful etched platter featuring the original pin was donated by **Margaret Palmisano '49** for the raffle. It was won by **Betty Hebert '68**. The 50/50 drawing was won by **Julie Lemaire '84** who received \$376 for her winning ticket!

Shelley Nettles '86 placed the winning bid for the →



Charity porcelain nurse doll, and the antique Charity Cape was won by **Patti Burcham '70**. "I absolutely love my cape!" said Patti. "I will wear it proudly."

We are tremendously thankful to **Dr. Kevin Jeansonne**, an extraordinary supporter of Charity, who is also a terrific photographer, and he was tireless in documenting all our fun! Kevin funds a \$500 scholarship every semester, and he got a chance to meet the most recent recipient of his scholarship, senior **Yma Lechler**. Yma's grandmother was a Charity graduate, and Yma carried her grandmother's pin with her on Sunday. "It was like she was here with me," said Yma. "I can't wait to be part of the Alumni Association."

Judy Ross '68 had volunteered to lead a tour of the University Medical Center after the brunch, so some would extend their Homecoming experience a few hours longer, but for most of us this was the end of an amazing and magically fun weekend. **Cindy Beniger '68** led us in singing the Alma Mater once again, and it was a sweet so-long to our old and dear friends - and to our many new friends.

Thank you to all who attended for a wonderful, emotional, exciting and unforgettable Homecoming! ☞

Dean's Report

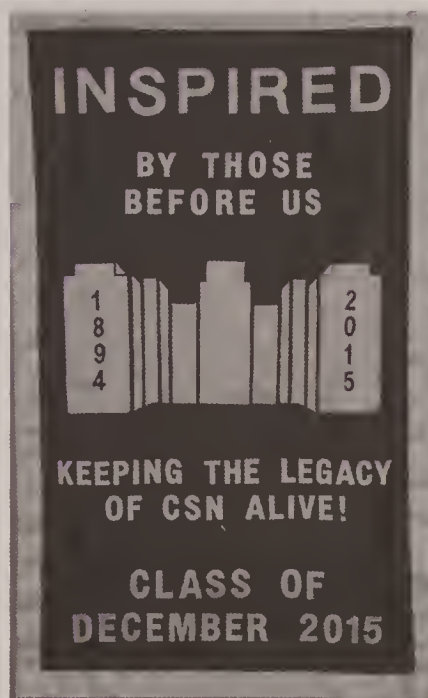
By Cheryl Myers, PhD, RN

Executive Dean CSN Campus/Dean of Nursing

Greetings from the School of Nursing! This message comes to you as we are busily preparing for the end of the semester and all of the excitement that a graduating class brings as they finish their final journey through Charity. The faculty, students and I enjoyed meeting and visiting with those of you who were in attendance at the 2015 Homecoming celebration. It was a wonderful event and a privilege for our students to hear about the history of this great program from those who came before them. In fact, the motto of the Class of December 2015 is "Inspired by those before us." Thank you for setting the example of the type of professional nurse we want all of our students to aspire to be.

As the Class of December 2015 finishes up the semester, they are completing their final clinical projects, participating in the Professional Issues Seminar, preparing for the NCLEX-RN by participating in a three day review course at school, submitting job applications and anxiously awaiting their Pinning Ceremony. Thanks to the generous donations of many alumni, many students had the cost of their pin covered by former graduates who recognize how special the occasion is (and how extra financial assistance can help with the many expenses associated with graduation and licensing)!

As I have previously shared, the College will have



Above, this building at 1542 Tulane Avenue, a few steps from Big Charity, has been selected as the site for Delgado College's new Nursing and Allied Health campus. It will be renovated into a state-of-the-art facility. Left, the banner for the Class of December 2015.

\$35 million available from a bond issue through Act 360 of the 2013 legislative session to establish a new Nursing and Allied Health campus in the Biomedical District

in downtown New Orleans. A site has been identified at 1542 Tulane Avenue, and we are looking forward to beginning the process of designing and renovating to provide a state of the art facility to prepare the next generation of nursing leaders.

Thank you for the many scholarships the Alumni Association provides for our students. Your support often makes the difference in whether or not a student can afford to continue in the program, and for that, we are most appreciative.

Through the sponsorship of the Alumni Association, our students are able to participate in the National Student Nurses Association annual convention, the New Orleans District Nurses Association Student Nurse Night, enjoy lunch at their Professional Issues Seminar day, and this semester, participate in a Leadership Symposium sponsored by the New Orleans District Nurses Association. Thank you for your unwavering support of our students and our program as we work to continue the tradition of excellence of the Charity nurse. ☞

Answering the Call

SPOTLIGHT ON: Betty MacDonald '66

By Ann Burghardt-Dieck '80

A calling..... Many of us have proposed that our path to becoming a nurse was initiated by "a calling." I would suspect that for most this was some sort of a spiritual experience as opposed to an existential act. But for at least one nurse, her journey was indeed navigated by actual telephone calls – the answering of the ringing phone mapped her future and culminated into a career of legends.

Meet Elizabeth "Betty Boop" MacDonald, a 1966 graduate of Charity Hospital School of Nursing and follow her journey to Elizabeth MacDonald, Colonel, USAF, NC (Retired), having served all over the world with influence at the National Institutes of Health, Assistant Secretary of Defense for Health Affairs and the Air Force Surgeon General's office credited with creating and administrating major educational venues, supervising nurses all over the world, collaborating and monitoring multi-million dollar contracts, all in response to the call of service.

Betty Matranga was born in New Orleans but moved with her family to Abita Springs at the tender age of four. The eldest of her siblings, Betty shouldered a heavy responsibility growing up with a single mom. Like many of us, resources were scarce and the future was uncertain. She knew her post high school life was hers to craft.

While attending a St. Tammany festival in high school, Betty was intrigued by the Air Force recruiter. But at graduation Betty was only 17 and the minimum age for joining the service was 18. So with brochures hidden under her mattress she thought her dreams were not possible. But moms have a way of knowing. When an Air Force recruiter came to talk to Betty, she was only mildly surprised to find that her mom had a hand in making her dreams come true. With her mother's signature the paperwork was filed and in January 1959, an 18-year-and-two-week-old girl began the rest of her life with her first airplane ride to San Antonio Texas for basic training.

The Air Force placed her in the medical training unit and graduated her as a Medical Service Specialist. "I was pretty much trained as an LPN, drawing blood, giving meds etc. At 19, I was sent to Germany for 3 years where I worked in a military hospital rotating shifts. Far from Abita, I was becoming a seasoned traveler eating

schnitzel and drinking beer. The nurses were very supportive, willing to teach and I wanted to learn. After four years I had enough of military ways and returned home, but I thought to myself, 'I can do this.... I can be a nurse.'"

With that mindset, Elizabeth MacDonald began her studies at Charity Hospital School of Nursing in the fall of 1963. One of her most proud memories is being a member and president of Sigma Alpha Chi, our honor scholastic society for Charity School of Nursing. Her memories of Charity are many but in particular she remembers nights in the dorm with large roaches, so common to New Orleans in the hot summer months. She recalls the large critters would linger in the corners of the ceilings of her dorm room waiting for lights-out to 'plop' down beside her on the bed.

And then, of course, there was the first day of her senior year, September 9, 1965. Is that date familiar? Prior to Katrina, it was the "Big One." At 10pm, Sister Blanche walked into the dorm and declared, "Get up, get your uniforms on and get to the hospital." All senior nursing students were dispatched to the hospital to substitute for the staff unable to report to work with Hurricane Betsy bearing down. "We worked like Trojans. I remember rolling the sickest patients, on ventilators, into the hallway while windows blew in and the rain and wind was howling around us."

Upon Betty's graduation in 1966, the American Nurses Association had just published their position paper recommending that: "...minimum preparation for beginning professional nursing practice at the present time should be baccalaureate degree education in nursing." So Betty, along with five of her classmates, enrolled at Northwestern State University in Natchitoches.

Despite earning only 30 college credits for her 3 years at Charity, Betty was determined to carry a full load and graduate with her BSN in just 2 years. The University had the Federal Nurse Traineeship Program which paid \$200 a month for the last 12 months in school and she signed on. In 1968, "I was on a roll so I took advantage of the Federal Nurse traineeship program at the graduate level." This time she attended University of Alabama in Birmingham where she earned a Masters in Med-Surg Nursing Education in 1969.

Now this Masters prepared nurse, with the potential for a great future, was at a loss as how to proceed with her life. While trying to figure out her next move, a visit to the Air Force recruiter ended with a 3-year commitment to return to the Air Force as an officer. In 1969, Second Lieutenant Elizabeth MacDonald attended Officer →



Medical Training. For the next three years she was a staff nurse in the neurosurgery and orthopedic units in Texas where she was a clinical nurse. And here the fateful phone calls began and her life was transformed along a journey most of us can only aspire to.

Ring ring...1970... Betty, we need to figure out a way to “bridge the gap” caused by a physician shortage in the military. So Betty left the hospital to become the clinic charge nurse in Washington state and then to go to the Army Medical Center and train to be an OB/GYN nurse practitioner.

Ring ring...1973... Betty, we need an OB/GYN Nurse Practitioner to serve the female Air Force members and their families in Korea. Betty answered the call and opened a clinic in Osan. “I counted the days. It was cold and the work was hard.” She remembers delivering a baby in an Army helicopter, in the middle of the night, in a snow storm, with the technician holding a flashlight in his mouth, somewhere south of Seoul.

Ring ring...1974... Betty, we need you to come home and start a Nurse Practitioner program for the Air Force. So Betty answered the call and went to the School of Health Care Science in Wichita Falls, Texas, so she could write and create the Air Force curriculum for the OB/GYN Nurse Practitioner course. Over the next four years she taught 5 to 6 students at a time and administrated the program during which time she was Appointed Master Instructor.

Ring ring...1978... Betty, we need a nurse on the Air Force Management Consultation teams. She conducted numerous management consultant visits worldwide. While on the team she met an engineer, Mike MacDonald. While traveling the world together it did not take long to know he was the one. In 1979 “Mikie” and Betty tied the knot. She gained two wonderful sons in the bargain, and thirty-seven years later she is still happily married.

Ring ring...1980... Betty returned to Texas as a Nurse Practitioner then was told: We need someone to help us with new RN graduates. Betty supervised the highly successful Nurse Intern Program. As Nurse Intern Coordinator, she supervised the clinical practice of new graduates coming on active duty in the Air Force. She was selected as the 1982 Senior Nurse of the Year at Wilford Hall Medical Center in San Antonio, TX.

Ring ring...1983... Betty, we need a Chief Nursing Officer for Whiteman Air Force base in Missouri. Husband Mikie was retired and he and their 2 sons accompanied Betty as she directed nursing services for a multi-unit hospital and supervised US military and civilian personnel in all aspects of nursing services. While there she started the first on site Master of Nursing program in

the military. She simultaneously served as an adjunct instructor for the University of Kansas School of Nursing and for the Physician Assistant Program at St. Louis Medical Center.

Ring ring...1986... Betty, we need you to go to England and serve as Chief Nursing Officer. Once again she directed nursing services for a multi-unit hospital and supervised US military and civilian personnel in all aspects of nursing services in Upper Heyford, England.

While there she represented US nursing as a member of the Anglo-American Medical Society and the Royal College of Nursing. By now Colonel Elizabeth MacDonald is also serving as a member of the Editorial Advisory Board for the International Journal of Health Care Quality Assurance.

Ring ring...1988... Betty, we need you at the Pentagon. During her three years in Washington, Betty worked as a Senior Policy Analyst in the Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Health Affairs. Here she formulated nursing policy for world wide military nursing practices and developed and coordinated

military medical policies and practices. She served as the Department of Defense for Health Affairs representative to the National Advisory Council for Nursing Research at the NIH.

Ring ring...1989... Betty, we need you at the Air Force Surgeon General’s office to serve as the consultant for nursing in the Clinical Consultant Division. Here she developed policies for worldwide Air Force medical and nursing practices. She directed multidisciplinary workshops. Looking to the future she worked with the national American Red Cross Working Group addressing future obstetrics educational programs.

Ring ring...1992... Betty, this is Betty Boop calling, What now? You have been all over the world. You’ve served at the highest plateaus of our nation: the NIH, Pentagon. You’ve written policy for the world... After 28 years, this Air Force Colonel has accomplished more than most and decided it was time to take the phone off the hook. Now days are filled with golf, gardening, travel and Mikie. A relaxing river cruise is on the horizon.

In her 7th decade Betty is very active, enjoying life and speaking proudly of her many achievements. A young girl from a small town has answered the call to become a powerful woman with a strong voice heard all the way to the top of our government and our profession. Thank you, Colonel McDonald, for all you have done for us: all the pathways you have paved, obstacles you have obliterated, lives you have enriched and pride you have brought to your alma mater, Charity School of Nursing. We are so proud to be part of your legacy. ❧



Charity Hospital Nurses in World War II

By William Wilson and Molly Johnson Wilson

The story of the Charity nurses in this article is a result of research on a book about Molly's parents, Doug and Gerry Johnson. Her mother, Geraldine Evans, received her nursing school diploma from Charity Hospital School of Nursing in 1940.

Gerry and Doug both served in the Army in WWII, she in the Army Nurse Corps with the 64th General Hospital, Doug with the 45th Infantry Division. They met stateside, fell in love, got married and were separated when her unit was shipped overseas to Africa. Doug ended up in Italy. They found each other several times over the course of a year, from the summer of 1943 through the summer of 1944. We hope to publish Doug and Gerry's story Under Vesuvius – Love in a Time of War in the coming months.

By 1940, it was clear to our political and military leaders that the United States would likely become involved in the war raging in Europe, and the Army started discussions with medical schools across the country about sponsoring Army hospitals. In 1941, LSU Medical School and Tulane School of Medicine were chartered as the 64th General Hospital and the 24th General Hospital, respectively.

LSU immediately began assembling a team of faculty and staff doctors for a 1,000 bed general hospital. They assembled a team of 57 men who would be commissioned as the original officer corps of the unit.

Judith Wallin, RN, a career nurse from Minnesota working for Metropolitan Life in New Orleans, was recruited as Chief Principal Nurse and was commissioned as a first lieutenant. Over the following months she recruited 100 nurses who were given officer commissions as second lieutenants. Many of the nurses, like Gerry Evans, had gotten their training at Charity; others were from the Touro Infirmary program and others from as far away as Texas.

On July 15, 1942 the unit was activated and ordered to report to Fort Jackson in Columbia, South Carolina, where they would receive basic training and indoctrination in 'The Army Way' of delivering medical services.

Five hundred enlisted men were assigned to the unit and they were organized into functional units to support the various medical departments, a mess unit, etc. All,

including the nurses, received several weeks of Army basic training, learning close order drill, gas mask drill, how to shoot a rifle, going on forced marches and the other elements of what it took to be a member of the Army at that time. The nurses trained outdoors in brutally hot weather in their white uniforms, white caps and white shoes. The few weeks that they expected to be at Fort Jackson turned into a year. They were finally put on alert at the beginning of August 1943.

Doug and Gerry met at Fort Jackson and got married on August 11, 1943, the day before her hospital unit loaded onto a troop train that took them to Africa.

The troop train took the doctors and nurses to New York where they boarded a ship, joined a convoy and crossed the Atlantic. Just after they entered the Mediterranean through the Strait of Gibraltar on September 1, German warplanes attacked the convoy. No one on their ship was injured and one of the planes was shot down.

The convoy arrived at their destination: Bizerte, Tunisia, on September 4. They found total destruction: not only was the city destroyed, but the harbor was choked with ships that had been sunk, either by bombs or deliberately scuttled.

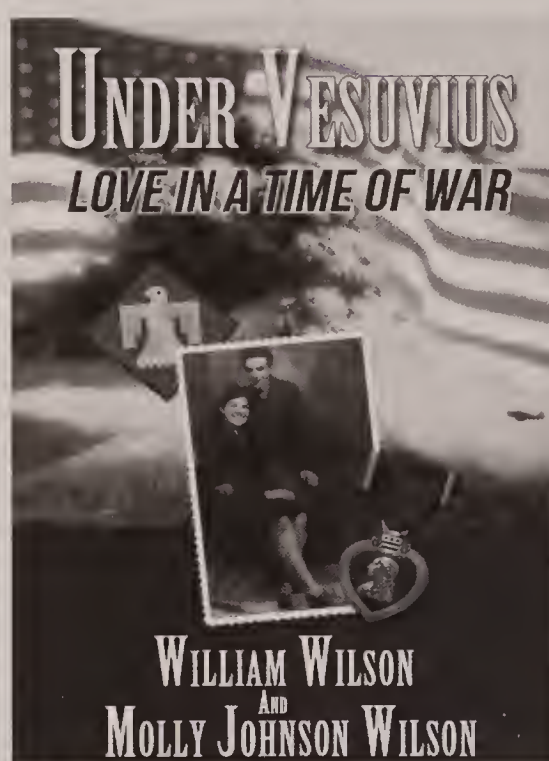
They loaded into waiting trucks that took them to a field south of Lake Bizerte, about 6 miles north of Ferryville. Engineers had erected a tent city for them. The hospital departments were in large, walled tents. The doctors and nurses slept on cots in small tents that housed four. The enlisted men slept in pup tents on the ground.

It was hot the day they arrived – nearly 90° - it was the desert, after all, and it was still summer. During the night, the temperature dropped into the 40s and they shivered all night, most of them fully clothed, under the single blanket that they had been allocated. The next day they were issued extra blankets that were meant for patients and requisitions were submitted for more. They eventually received small kerosene heaters for the tents.

After having nothing but C-rations for the first two weeks, the mess department set up kitchens and everyone ate outside cafeteria-style. They formed lines with their mess kits and were served hot meals from large vats. They ate wherever they could, often sitting on the ground.

Potable water was available from large canvas Lyster bags suspended from tripods. The water was treated with generous amounts of bleach, and they never got used to the taste. They bathed out of their steel helmets for several weeks until hot shower facilities were built.

Shortly after they arrived, German air raids started bombing nearby airfields and they learned what



soldiers in every war learn: to dig foxholes. There were never any injuries or even close calls, but they had to be on constant alert at night.

There were many minefields in the area, and they had only been cleared a few feet on either side of the road. Arabs living in the area would sometimes step on mines, mangling their feet and legs, and they would be brought to the hospital for treatment.

One of the fears of the high command, for good reason, was malaria. Everyone was required to take a daily pill of Atabrine and many had adverse reactions to them: nausea, jaundice, fatigue. Many of the nurses would wait until the senior nurse giving the pills moved on, and then would spit them out.

One of the duties of the nurses was to sharpen hypodermic needles for reuse. At the time the vectors for transmission of hepatitis were not well understood, and after a few weeks, there was a massive outbreak of it; nearly half of the members of the hospital unit became infected.

With the onset of winter, the rains came. The downpours were torrential and the area became extremely muddy. Movement between the different tents housing sections of the hospital became very difficult, so they made sidewalks out of wood. There was a steady flow of wounded GIs from Italy and the hospital was usually pretty full.

Doug volunteered for front line duty and soon arrived at a replacement depot in Oran, Algeria. Doug and Gerry wrote letters to each other almost every day, and by early November, Gerry had figured out where Doug was. Taking leave, she hitchhiked the 800 miles west across North Africa in the nose turret of a B-26 bomber. She located Doug in Algeria and they finally had their deferred honeymoon, two days and nights in Oran, then Gerry hitchhiked back to her unit in Tunisia.

In mid-February 1944, the hospital staff was alerted that they would be moving by the end of the month.

They boarded the hospital ship *Algonquin* on February 29 and started across the Mediterranean Sea, headed for Naples. The ship had been provisioned in New Orleans and the nurses were thrilled with the New Orleans drinking water, the hot sauce and other Louisiana provisions. One of the orderlies on the ship had worked at Touro before the war and there was a homecoming of sorts. The nurses were shocked at how they appeared when they looked in the mirrors in their staterooms at how bad their skin and hair looked after six months in Tunisia.

Other than a hailstorm in the middle of the night, their trip across the Mediterranean was uneventful. As they sailed into Naples Bay at night two days later, they could see Mount Vesuvius, the volcano above the city, starting

to erupt. It had lain dormant for 2,000 years since it had buried Pompeii and Herculaneum in 97 AD.

They disembarked from the ship and were trucked to the Naples train station a couple of miles away. While waiting on a train, they were given C-rations for their midday meal. Starving Neapolitans crowded around them, begging for food.

Late in the afternoon, they were loaded onto an ancient, decrepit medical train that had no seats, only bunks that they had to lie on. For several hours, the train chugged along with many unexplained stops, finally arriving in the middle of the night at the small city of Maddaloni, about 20 miles north of Naples.

Other than a couple of large buildings that had been designated as the site for the hospital, nothing had been prepared for them. The buildings had no heat, no running water, no electricity. None of their clothing and gear had traveled with them; it would not catch up to them until the next day. They had only whatever C-rations they had saved from the midday meal, and the water in their canteens to sustain them. There was nowhere to lie down, so they leaned against the walls or each other and tried to sleep, but it was very cold. Several of the nurses suffered long lasting effects of the cold that night, comparing their injuries to frostbite. In the wee hours of the morning a group of Red Cross workers arrived with hot coffee and doughnuts. Everyone agreed that it was the best coffee they'd ever had.

They made do. The engineers worked with townsfolk and they restored the running water and electricity and repaired damaged sewers. The nurses were assigned living quarters in nearby buildings and they borrowed or rented furniture and hired local women to clean and do laundry. The hospital became Maddaloni's economic engine, employing hundreds of local citizens and supporting their extended families.

Doug had joined the 45th Infantry Division, the Thunderbirds, in the mountains of Italy north of Naples. By the time Gerry was transferred to Maddaloni, Doug's division had been pulled back from the mountains and participated in the amphibious assault at Anzio, 100 miles north of Naples.

The hospital opened for business in March. Fighting in the mountains at Cassino and on the beaches at Anzio was particularly intense and soon they were receiving several hundreds of casualties each day. Many of them were French colonial troops from Morocco, Algeria and Senegal, and the nurses had many adventures learning to accommodate the cultural differences they encountered.

Doug was wounded on March 7 and was transported to Naples. There he was loaded onto an ambulance and taken to the 64th General Hospital in Maddaloni, where his wife Gerry was able to tend to him. After only a few days, Doug returned to the fighting in Anzio. ❧

Alumni Notes

The Louisiana Great 100 Nurses for 2015 includes twenty Charity alumni and two CSN faculty members!

Congratulations to **Penny Walters Bergeron '96**, **Monchielle M. Bolds '02**, **Mary Carruth '06**, **Geneva Carter '11**, **Jovita Lee Chapital '79**, **Jamie Gerding D'Aquin '04**, **Sharlene Q. Dering '00**, **Allison Wood Drez '91**, **Agnes Guidry Falcon '08**, **Barry P. Faucheux '89**, **Kaycie L. Hernandez '10**, **Victoria Faquet Johnson '08**, **Sharon L. Mabry '82**, **Tamika W. Maracalin '05**, **Carla McNeely '90**, **Juana L. Moreau '81**, **Lyanne M. Pazos '08**, **Janin Gerardi Pierce '96**, **Therese Rochelle '85**, **Nikeisha Moore Washington '06** and Charity faculty members **Pamela Kemp** and **Thuan Le-Phi**.

Sally Moore Phillips '49 (*Clearwater, FL*): "Shortly after I graduated, I came back to Florida and was employed at the local hospital in my hometown. On duty one day, I got a message that I was wanted on the first floor women's ward. One of the local doctors had called in for a patient to be put into traction. The supervisor on duty had informed the doctor that there was no one there that could put a person into traction. The doctor promptly asked if Sally Moore was on duty. He told them to have me put the patient in traction. The supervisor said, 'She can't do that.' The doctor responded, 'She graduated from Charity Hospital School of Nursing. She can do anything.' Which I promptly and properly did. (The doctor had completed his residency at Charity Hospital.)"

"Now the second story I have to tell you is very close to my heart. Several years ago, I lost my Charity Hospital pin and was very upset. My good, good grandchildren got busy on the internet and with some help from the alumni at Charity, presented me with an exact duplicate of the 1949 pin on Christmas morning with all of my children and grandchildren present. What a thrill. It was the best Christmas present I have had in a long, long time."

Joy Weber Gregerson '50 (*Hammond, LA*) writes: "I enjoy the *White Cap* so much, it brings back good memories! I recently had a visit with my 'big sister' **Joyce Delatte Kelly '49**. After several years apart, we had a lot to talk about. We have remained good friends, and we are so much alike we could have been 'natural' sisters. We often get a kick about that! Thank you again for the *White Cap*. You do a great job."

Joan Bero '63 (*Hermosa Beach, CA*) made a \$1,000 donation and pledged more in the future. This wonderful gift allowed us to establish a **Catastrophic Fund** within the **Student Emergency Assistance Fund**. The Student Emergency Assistance Fund helps Charity students stay in school when medical, family or personal crises strike by

providing a quick bit of financial support. Up to now, our assistance has been limited to \$100 per student. Not a lot of money, but in most cases enough to put some food on the table and give the student a little time to explore other assistance options. But every now and then, a student is confronted with a truly devastating situation – their house burns to the ground, a serious medical crisis occurs, a spouse dies suddenly. Though we could never provide enough assistance to make the road easy in such a circumstance, Joan's gift will allow us to give students in catastrophic situations the extra assistance that could help keep them from dropping out of nursing school.

Pam Welsh '70 (*Baton Rouge, LA*) made a contribution of \$500 to the Student Emergency Assistance Fund, and writes: "I am so blessed to be a member of this Alumni Association, and I thank God every day for Charity Hospital School of Nursing. It gave me an opportunity that has allowed me to help so many people, and I feel it is my responsibility to pay it forward."

William Wilkinson '75 (*Tucson, AZ*) is the Arizona Risk Manager for Dialysis Clinic, Inc. (DCI), as well as the Chairman of the Tucson #4 Masonic Lodge "Bikes for Books" Program. He was able to combine both his passions in the Holaway School Kidney Care Education Purpose Project/"Bikes For Books" program which was awarded the Most Impactful DCI Community Service Purpose Project. The partnership of Tucson dialysis clinics and the local Masonic Lodge was chosen from among dozens of DCI-Funded Purpose Projects across the United States at their DCI Annual Corporate Meeting in October. The project educated second-grade students about caring for their own health with presentations on nutrition, human anatomy, and diabetes and hypertension as risk factors for kidney disease. The Tucson Masonic Lodge and their "Bikes for Books" program provided bicycles to reward the second-grade students for their participation in the Kidney Care Classes.

Will worked as an RN in the OR and ER while earning his BSN from Northwestern State University of Louisiana in Shreveport, then a Master of Public Health degree in Community Health Nursing from the Tulane University School of Public Health and Tropical Medicine in New Orleans, and a Doctor of Public Health degree in Epidemiology and Toxicology from the University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston School of Public Health. He is a Certified Nephrology Nurse (CNN).

He earned a Juris Doctor law degree from the University of Arizona College of Law in Tucson, and served as a law clerk for the Senior Judge of the Arizona Court of Appeals in Tucson. Will also earned a MS in Biomedical Informatics from Arizona State University at the Mayo Clinic Campus in Scottsdale in 2010. →

Will has been a teacher, researcher and professor in nursing and public health at the University of Illinois Medical Center in Chicago and at the University of Washington Medical Center in Seattle.

Will has authored over 50 publications on medical-legal issues, public and occupational health research, computerized management information systems, workers' compensation and health care administration. He is on the Editorial Review Panel of the *AAOHN JOURNAL* and was the Editor-in-Chief for the American Association of Occupational Health Nurses' *AAOHN UPDATE SERIES*. He is a peer reviewer for *The Journal of Nursing Law* and *Journal of Patient Safety*. He developed and presented numerous nationally-accredited continuing education programs, and is a public speaker to many research and professional organizations, nationally and internationally from Australia to the Ukraine.

Donna Lambert Holmes '75 (*Little Rock, AR*): "Forty years! Going to Charity was the best thing I ever did!"

Coletta Barrett '77 (*Baton Rouge, LA*) was inducted into the Nightingale Hall of Fame by the Louisiana State Nurses Association in June 2015. Coletta completed the Cardiovascular Nurse Specialist Program in 1979 at Methodist Hospital/Baylor University in Houston and received her CNS Certification. She earned Facilitator Training Certification from the Juran Institute at Boston College in 1990, and a BS degree in Nursing, *cum laude*, in 1991 from Southeastern Louisiana University School of Nursing. She earned a Masters of Health Administration degree and was named the Outstanding Executive MHA Student Award in 1994 at the School of Public Health and Tropical Medicine, Department of Health Systems Management, at Tulane University.

Coletta began working as a RN in 1977 at Baton Rouge General Hospital in a Critical Care Unit. Later, as a Cardiovascular Nurse Specialist, she launched a cardiac rehabilitation program and eventually rose to Vice-President of Administration.

Coletta served as Vice President of Resource Development and Member Services with the Louisiana Hospital Association (LHA) in charge of their Research & Education Foundation with responsibility for Hospital Emergency & Bioterrorism Preparedness, Planning and Response. She was appointed by Governor Foster to the statewide Trauma Task Force in 2002. As hospital lead for ESF-8 response, she facilitated the evacuation of over 26,000 patients and family members from hospitals statewide after Hurricane Katrina. She published two articles on disaster planning in the journal *Health Progress* based on her experiences after Hurricanes Katrina, Rita and Gustav. She became co-chair of a team to pass enabling legislation creating the Louisiana Emergency Response Network (LERN) and Governor

Blanco appointed her to the LERN Board in 2006.

Since 2005, Coletta has served as Vice President of Mission at Our Lady of the Lake Regional Medical Center in Baton Rouge. Her responsibilities include Mission Formation, Palliative Medicine Program, Parish Nursing, Health Centers in Schools, Community Advocacy, and Mission Services.

Coletta is a member of LSNA/ANA and has been a facilitator of strategic planning for the organization. In 2010, she received the Community Volunteer Leadership Award and last year received the Volunteer Nurse of the Year Award at the Nightingale Award Gala. She was inducted into the Rho Zeta Chapter of Sigma Theta Tau International Honor Society of Nursing at Southeastern Louisiana University in 2004 and was awarded the prestigious International Pillar of Leadership Award at the 2005 International Biennial Convention.

Coletta served as the national Board Chair for the American Heart Association in 2003-2004. She is the first Registered Nurse to ever hold the office of Chief Volunteer Officer for the AHA. Her tenure saw the launching of the Go Red for Women movement in 2004 that continues nationally today. Coletta has received numerous awards from AHA, including a National Award of Meritorious Achievement and the Gold Heart Award. She is currently a member of the American Heart Association Council on Cardiovascular Nursing and was elected to Fellow Status (FAHA) in 1986. She holds membership in the Louisiana Hospital Association (LHA) and currently serves on the Board of Directors for LHA Education and Research Foundation. She's held legislative appointment to the Louisiana Healthcare Commission as LHA representative, is a member of the American College of Healthcare Executives and became a Fellow (FACHE) in the College in 2010.

Baton Rouge Mayor Kip Holden asked Coletta to develop a Task Force charged with efforts to make the city a healthier place, and Coletta now serves as Board chair for the Mayor's Healthy City Initiative. She secured a \$1.2 million grant for MedLineBR, a 24/7 nurse triage, tele-health, call center program providing access for the uninsured and underinsured residents of Baton Rouge.

Karen Chabert '77 (*New Orleans, LA*) called to tell us that she had recently been hospitalized locally. "I had all Charity graduates as my nurses, and they were absolutely wonderful! Even those that were only a few months out of school, you couldn't tell the difference - their organizational skills, their knowledge. All the nursing care was superior! I was so impressed by the Charity nurses, and I was really proud to be a Charity graduate!"

Cindy Nuesslein '79 (*New Orleans, LA*): In August, Cindy joined Mazzetti, a global engineering design and consulting firm that focuses primarily on healthcare, →

mission critical, higher education, and science & technology. Cindy was the CEO of the new University Medical Center (UMC) in New Orleans, shepherding the hospital through the completion of construction and into its first months of operation.

Cindy had served in various capacities at Louisiana Children's Medical Center Health (UMC's management company) since 1983. She served as Children's Hospital's Vice President of Operations from 1987 to 2013, when she was promoted to CEO of the Interim LSU Hospital (ILH). As CEO she led the organization through a transition from a public hospital to a public-private partnership within a six month period, reopened inpatient beds, expanded capacity in the emergency room and outpatient clinics, improved throughput, and developed a management team to support future operations, including the relocation to the new University Medical Center in the summer of 2015.

Cindy received a BS degree and a Master's of Business Administration from Loyola University in New Orleans. She is a Fellow of the American College of Healthcare Executives. Because of her Emergency Management experience and leadership during and after Katrina, and her work in the Quality and Patient Safety arena, Cindy has presented at a number of national and regional conferences. She was a founding member of the Greater New Orleans Women's Healthcare Executive Network and was President from 1994 – 1995. In 2006 she was named by City Business as one of the Women of the Year.

Lynda Bishop Gaber '83 (*Boise, ID*) writes: "My time at Charity was filled with hard work and amazing educational opportunities. I treasure the excellent education I received at Charity. I am no longer able to work due to having MS. The last day I worked as a RN was the saddest day of my life. I am still good friends with **Ann Johnston '84** and **Denise Samson Brown '83**. Whenever I am in New Orleans I spend time with them. I loved Big Charity and pray that she remains."

Nicole Nurdin Diaz '10 (*Madisonville, LA*): Nicole was licensed as a Family Nurse Practitioner this past summer, after obtaining her Masters of Science in Nursing from Southeastern Louisiana University in May 2015.

Jenn Garnand '11 (*New Orleans, LA*) competed in the 2015 Ironman World Championship in Kailua-Kona, Hawaii, in October. Over the past four years, she has become increasingly active in national triathlon events. Jenn was one of only six finishers of the 2014 Ironman Lake Tahoe (officially cancelled due to heavy smoke from



Left, Jenn Garnand '11 in the 2014 Ironman in Lake Tahoe.

forest fires) and the only female to finish.


Jenn earned a BA in Sociology, Theology and Criminology at Loyola before enrolling at Charity. Graduating in 2011, she received the nursing school's Award of Distinction, and the New Orleans District Nurses Association's Student Nurse Leadership Award. She

now works at Ochsner Hospital in the Emergency Department, and in Flight Care/Rescue. Jenn is a Certified Trauma Nurse, a Certified Emergency Nurse and Pediatric Emergency Nurse, and a paramedic. She is National Incident Management (NIMS) certified by FEMA. Jenn is a member of the Professional Practice Council for Ochsner, and Chair of the Unit Practice Council for the Ochsner Main Campus ER.

Paulette Guidry Lill '14 (*Mandeville, LA*) is a Forensic Nurse Examiner, and this November she was hired by the St. Tammany Coroner's Office to pioneer the new SART (sexual assault response team) and the SAFE (sexual assault forensic examiner) team for St. Tammany Parish. Paulette was instrumental in convincing the new St. Tammany Parish Coroner of the value of specially trained sexual assault nurse examiners (known as SANE nurses) who have the expertise to provide appropriate medical care and counseling as well as collect evidence and testify in court.

Last year, Paulette met with each of the candidates who ran for St. Tammany coroner to gauge their support for a SANE program in St. Tammany. Since the election she has been working closely with the new coroner to design a program for St. Tammany. The plan is for the nurse examiners to work for the coroner's office, rather than individual hospitals, and be part of an interagency team that will include the district attorney, law enforcement agencies and the crime lab.

"Our goal," says Paulette, "is to start serving the ERs throughout St. Tammany, performing all of the forensic medical exams on sexual assault victims and bringing a victim-centered response to this area."

As a student at Charity, Paulette received the Hugh and Maria Garcia Roach Scholarship in 2013, the Ruth Wallace Scholarship in 2014, and the Margaret Palmisano Alumni Award at graduation. Paulette says, "I wouldn't be where I am today without the scholarship support I received from the Alumni Association." 

Scholarships and Awards

In August, the Alumni Association presented \$8,500 in scholarships and awards to twenty-one Charity students – the most we’ve ever given in a single semester! All were made possible by the support of our many alumni and friends who believe so strongly in the current Charity nursing students. Thank you to our generous donors and congratulations to these recipients:

Level 2: Michael Dragna, Sister Blanche McDonnell Scholarship; **Kellie Bourgeois**, Wilene Dyson Marshall ’48 Scholarship.

Level 3: Vickie Seghers, Gloria Redmond Ashman ’48 Scholarship; **Renee Issawi**, Frances Spicola Cummings ’65 Scholarship; **Donald Irwin**, Sister Camilla Gaudin Scholarship; **Zinnia Macloud**, Leona Kruebbe Hilbert ’46 and Dr. Gerard Hilbert Scholarship; **Catherine Lansford**, Hugh and Maria Garcia Roach ’38 Scholarship; **John Ostermann**, Ruth Wallace ’59 Scholarship.

Level 4: Jaime Taylor, Sally Cooper ’59 Scholarship; **Yma Lechler**, Joycelyn Jeansonne ’78 Scholarship; **Jenna Dufrene**, Mary Ann Signorelli Whynot ’46 Scholarship.

Level 4 Pin Awards: Katherine Silva, Geneva Dufour Waters ’48 Pin Award; **Marcelle Lambert**, Betty Wilson Guinn ’49 Pin Award; **Ashley Zapata**, Madeline Tolson Markwood ’52 Pin Award; **Jordan Bonner**, Sydney Wood Womack ’57 Pin Award; **Zulina Baskin**, Ruth Wallace ’59 Pin Award; **Dara Spell**, Meralee Marquet Clements ’62 Pin Award; **Chantel Griffin**, Charlene Berger ’79 Pin Award; **Joyce Morin**, Sister Genevieve Sullivan Pin Award; **Katie Hodas**, Carole LeBlanc Pin Award; **Ashley Hiltunen**, Arthur Joseph Delima Jr. Pin Award.

The Federation of Registered Professional and Licensed Practical Nurses of Charity Hospital Awards were presented to **Jana Gilliland** in the RN program, and to **Julie Paniagua** in the PN Program. ❧



Left: Level 4, Jenna Dufrene, Yma Lechler and Jaime Taylor. Below, Level 3; back row: John Ostermann, Catherine Lansford, Renee Issawi; Front row: Vickie Seghers, Donald Irwin and Zinnia Macloud.



Left, Level 2: Michael Dragna.

Below, Level 4 Pin Awards, left to right, back row: Joyce Morin, Dara Spell, Chantel Griffin, Zulina Baskin; middle row: Jordan Bonner, Ashley Zapata, Katherine Silva, Marcelle Lambert; front row: Katie Hodas.



Goodbyes

Carolyn Ann Medina Cracco '61 passed away unexpectedly on July 9, 2015, at Ochsner Hospital following surgery for carcinoid cancer. Carol graduated from Charity Hospital School of Nursing in 1961 and practiced until the birth of her children. Early in her nursing career, Carol was a key figure in the restructuring of salaries and working conditions for the Association of Charity Hospital Registered Professional and Licensed Practical Nurses during the pivotal workplace equality movement of 1967. These negotiations initiated forward changes in the working conditions and health care at Charity hospitals nationwide. When Carol's child rearing priorities were complete, she was recruited to join a New Orleans based humanitarian group of traveling physicians who journeyed extensively throughout regions of Mexico and Central America performing orthopedic and cleft pallet reconstruction surgeries on indigenous peoples. She gave five years of service toward this goal. Following the birth of her daughter, Carol and her friend Dorothy Gill founded the New Orleans Chapter of Little People of America, Inc. in 1972. Both women were mothers of children who shared the medical condition of Dwarfism. In journal articles and flyers, Carol worked to spread understanding of this condition in schools, to raise awareness of medical issues and to generate support for the chapter.

Catherine Loulle Arnold '50 passed away on July 4, 2015. After graduating from Charity, Catherine earned an advanced degree in nursing at the Catholic University of America in Washington, DC. She began as a civilian nurse at Walter Reed Army Medical Center. Her nursing career included duty at Gorgas Hospital in the Panama Canal Zone and head-nurse at Camp Leroy Johnson, then part of the New Orleans Port of Embarkation. In 1953, Catherine joined the US Army Reserve and served for 20 years, first as a nursing instructor and Med-Surg supervisor, and later as a public information officer. Catherine also pursued a journalism career including service with the Louisiana Cooperative Extension Service, and section editor for the Clarion Herald. She received numerous New Orleans Press Club awards and authored the publication, "Nurses Serve in Hurricane Betsey," a historical account of nurses on duty in the Gulf Coast area during that storm. The publication was used for disaster training for many years.

Colonel Billie Burson Davis '55 died on May 26, 2015. After graduation from the School of Nursing, Billie worked at Charity Hospital until 1956 when she joined the Air Force Nurse Corps. In 1962 she was assigned to

Okinawa where she worked as Chief Nurse of the Air Force Dispensary at Naha Air Base. In 1964, she resigned from the Air Force to accompany her husband to Germany, and worked at the Army's 97th General Hospital in Frankfurt. Returning to Louisiana, she worked in the emergency department at St. Francis Medical Center, then joined the Army Reserve in 1975 and earned a BSN at NLU School of Nursing. Catherine retired in 1994. She was a member of the Reserved Officers Association (ROA) and the Military Officers Association of America (MOAA). She was the first female officer to serve as president of the Louisiana ROA. ❧

In Memoriam

Adele Levy Adatto '42 (8/14/15)
 Louise Rodrigue Hammer '43 (10/10/15)
 Madeline Morvant Bolin '46 (6/10/15)
 Elsie McGuffee Porter '46 (9/13/15)
 Anna Mae Darcey Gnade '47 (3/23/13)
 Miriam Hinton Griffin '47 (5/4/15)
 Eloise Wheeler McLeod '47 (5/1/15)
 Lillian Doris Meaux Yeager '47 (1/5/15)
 Katherine Roy Dawes '49 (8/27/15)
 Robbie Summer Bailey '49 (4/20/15)
 Nickie Schifani Schiele '49 (7/8/15)
 Catherine L. Arnold '50 (7/4/15)
 Theresa Piccione '50 (2/2/12)
 Col. Billie Burson Davis, USAR Ret. '55 (5/26/15)
 Mary McBride '57 (12/16/14)
 Patsy Reifel Robertson '57 (8/10/14)
 Clara Fortenberry Saucier '60 (11/23/15)
 Carolyn Medina Cracco '61 (7/9/15)
 Mally Neil Clement '66 (8/5/15)
 Annelle Credeur '68 (2009)
 Bernadette Prevot '70 (7/15/13)
 Rebecca Ivey Reaves '70
 Patricia Lindsey Mancuso '72 (10/1/2015)
 Vernon Williams '74 (8/5/15)
 Shirley Ann John Daniel '78 (1/13/15)
 Debra Cure Ford '78 (8/1/15)
 Stephanie Kay Cook Hutchinson '86 (10/27/15)
 Carol Hrapmann Erath '88 (7/27/15)
 Gail Stanley Cochran '90 (6/17/15)
 J. Patrick Soileau '90
 Susan Bruhn McKeown McNabb '99 (6/7/15)
 John Robert Gordon, *Honorary Member of Alumni Association* (6/30/15)
 Arthur "Art" Callegari, *Charity School of Anesthesia Faculty* (7/23/15)



Two schools connect to offer nurses more options

By Leigh Guidry
Reprinted from "The Town Talk"

Louisiana nursing students have more options after Northwestern State University and Delgado Community College signed a 2+2 agreement this fall. NSU President Jim Henderson and Degaldo Chancellor Joan Davis met in Alexandria to sign a memorandum of understanding between their two institutions. The 2+2 program takes effect immediately, allowing Delgado students pursuing an Associate of Science in Nursing degree to complete the first two years of study at Delgado and transfer all credit hours to NSU toward the completion of a Bachelor of Science degree in nursing.


In effect, the agreement creates an ASN-to-BSN pathway through two institutions. Students can complete their bachelor's online in Northwestern State's RN-to-BSN program that was rated as the top program in the country by Nonprofit Colleges Online.

The 2+2 agreement benefits both institutions, officials said. It provides a next step to Delgado students wishing to continue their education, streamlines a path to the BSN at Northwestern State and offers NSU a pipeline of potential students who have completed foundation coursework

"They have a wonderful reputation," said Vicki Wissing, assistant professor in the NSU College of Nursing. "We're thrilled to have this caliber of students coming in."

The new pathway falls in line with recommendations from the Institute of Medicine that 80 percent of nurses be prepared at the baccalaureate level. Davis said Delgado is a "jumping-off point" to endless possibilities, especially as articulation agreements like this make it easier to pursue higher degrees.

Delgado and NSU have the top-producing nursing associate and bachelor's programs, respectively, in the state, Dr. Cheryl Myers, Dean of Charity School of Nursing, said. So the 2+2 agreement seemed fitting. "Our students are familiar with Northwestern's reputation. Everyone is," Davis said. "We want our students to have as many options as possible. This is the best one."

Henderson said it also was fitting as an agreement between "two storied institutions," as Delgado is the oldest community college in Louisiana and Northwestern State the oldest institution in the University of Louisiana System. It also aligns with the Louisiana Community and Technical College System's six-year plan that includes a goal to quadruple student transfers to four-year universities to 10,000 annually. "We want nursing students to have the best education and training possible," Davis said. 

CHSNAA MEMBERSHIP FORM

Check your mailing label for the year your membership expires. Use this form to join or to renew.

| | |
|---|--|
| <p>PLEASE WRITE CLEARLY!</p> <p>Name _____ <small>First name Maiden/graduating name Last name</small></p> <p>Class of: _____</p> <p>Address: _____ _____ Zip: _____</p> <p>Phone: _____</p> <p>Email: _____</p> | <p>Annual Membership Dues:</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> \$15 Regular Membership</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> \$25 Blue Ribbon Member*</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> \$50 Silver Star Member*</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> \$100 Sr. Stanislaus Member*</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Sustaining Member: a one-time gift of \$500 (and never pay dues again).*</p> <p>*Members at these levels, please select your choice of:</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Personalized Charity Nursing pocket calendar</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Charity Luggage Tag</p> |
| <p>I Want to Contribute to the:</p> <p>Art & Archives Preservation Fund\$ _____</p> <p>CASN Convention Travel Fund\$ _____</p> <p>Pin Award in Your Name* (\$100).....\$ _____</p> <p>Scholarship Fund.....\$ _____</p> <p>Student Emergency Assistance Fund.....\$ _____</p> <p>Student Activities Fund.....\$ _____</p> <p>Other: _____ \$ _____</p> <p><small>*or in honor of person of your choice.</small></p> | <p>Mail to: CHSN Alumni Association</p> <p>Delgado Charity School of Nursing</p> <p>450 South Claiborne Ave, New Orleans, LA 70112.</p> <p>You can include your membership dues in the same check with your Spring Luncheon ticket. You can mail your ballot in the same envelope as well.</p> <p>You can also join or renew online at www.CharityAlumni.org</p> |

2015 ELECTION BALLOT

DIRECTIONS: Circle the names of the candidates of your choice. Cut out the ballot, fold and mail. You can include it in the same envelope with other items.

SECRETARY

JOYCELYN JEANSONNE '78

BOARD MEMBERS
(Vote for Two)

PATRICK BRADY '83

VIVIAN MANES '70

Mail your ballot to: **CHSN Alumni Association**,
Delgado Charity School of Nursing
450 South Claiborne Ave, New Orleans, LA 70112

INSTRUCTIONS FOR VOTING

Circle your selections on the Ballot above, cut it out along the dotted lines, and fold it in half to protect the privacy of your vote. Place it in an envelope addressed to the CHSN Alumni Association. *You may include the membership form, and luncheon reservation in the same mailing envelope.* Your Ballot will be placed in a secure ballot box immediately upon receipt.

Ballots must be received in the Alumni Office no later than January 31, 2016, to be counted. ☞

Are you current on your membership dues?

Check your mailing label! The number after your name on your mailing label indicates the year your membership expires. For example, "Jane Jones 2015" means your membership expires at the end of 2015. You are current, but you may want to consider renewing your membership now for 2016.

If your label has a "0" or a year earlier than 2015 (such as "2007"), you are overdue! Please join or renew your membership now. Use the form on page 17, or go online to: www.CharityAlumni.org.

If the numbers on your label are 9999, 8888 or 7777, you are in a special membership category (Lifetime, Sustaining, Guest) and you do NOT need to renew. ☞

Candidate Biographies

Secretary Candidate

Joycelyn Gondolfo Jeansonne '78 has served as President, Board Member, and is currently Secretary of the Alumni Association. She also serves on the Scholarship Committee. She has a BSN from Northwestern, a MN from LSUMC, and a post-graduate NNP certification from LSUMC. Joycelyn worked for the state for 14 years, and was Supervisor of PICU at Big Charity before moving to Alexandria where she taught Pediatric Nursing at LSU Alexandria. She guest lectures at Louisiana College, volunteers at the Alexandria Museum of Art, and has served as Secretary, President and Captain of the Krewe of Medea, an Alexandria Mardi Gras krewe. Joycelyn lives in Alexandria, LA.



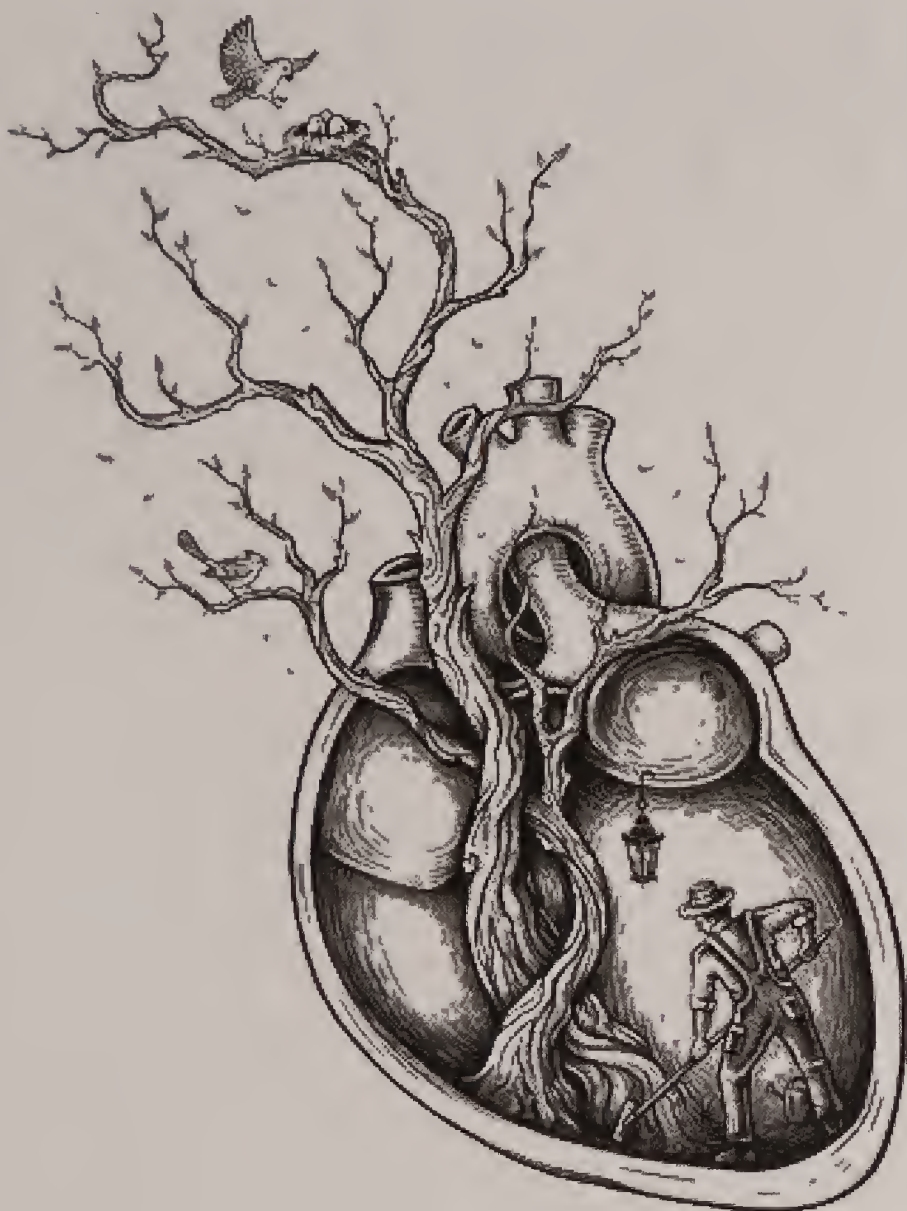
Board Candidates

Patrick Brady '83 is currently on the Alumni Association Board of Directors, and has served on the Advisory Committee. He earned a BSN from Loyola University, a MSN from William Carey University, and a Doctorate in Nursing in 2010 from the University of South Alabama. He was named one of the Great 100 Nurses in 1985. As a Sigma Theta Tau member, he served as President of the Upsilon Theta Chapter 462 from 2009 to 2011 and now serves as the faculty counselor. Patrick is currently an Assistant Professor of Nursing, director of the MSN programs and Louisiana campus coordinator at William Carey University. He has been a CHSNAA member since 1983, and has only missed three functions since that time. Patrick resides in Slidell, LA.



Vivian Larkin Manes '70 is a board certified nurse case manager with twenty-plus years of experience, currently working for a private rehab company. She has been a board member of the Case Management Society of America and a member of the American Society of Pain Management Nursing. Vivian has been an active member of the Alumni Association for many years, serving on the Board, on the Nominating Committee, and currently on the Advisory Committee. Vivian is a resident of Metairie, LA. ☞





Tree Of Life by Enkel Dika

Alumni Luncheon

Saturday, February 27

Chatzau Golf & Country Club

3600 Chatzau Blvd in Kenner 504-467-1351

Exit I-10 at Williams Blvd North, turn left on West Esplanade,
go one mile, turn right on Chateau Blvd.

FREE PARKING!

Cost: \$35 per person

Registration/Cash Bar opens at 10:30am,

Lunch served at 11:30am

Celebrate Spring with friends and classmates in an elegant venue
as you savor your choice of two delicious entrees, salad, sides
and cheesecake for dessert. Souvenirs, raffles,
door prizes, and so much more!

CUT HERE

2016 Alumni Luncheon Reservation Form

Mail to: CHSN Alumni Association, 450 S. Claiborne Ave, New Orleans, LA 70112

Or purchase tickets online at www.CharityAlumni.org

We must receive your payment by February 19, 2016, to guarantee your seating!

PLEASE WRITE CLEARLY!

Name _____
First name Maiden/graduating name (if applicable) Last name

Class of: _____ Phone: _____ Cell Home

Address: _____
_____ Zip: _____

Email: _____

I'll See You at the Luncheon:

Total number of people _____ @ \$35 each.....\$ _____

Choose your entree:

___ Stuffed Breast of Chicken, or ___ Trout Almondine

Bringing a Guest? Please give us the name for their Name Tag:

The \$35 ticket price covers only the
cost of your meal. If you value
receiving our newsletters, or any of the
other work of the Alumni Association,
please consider paying membership
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Website: **www.CharityAlumni.org**

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Big Charity Film DVD: **www.bigcharityfilm.com/dvd**

Cut out this box and put on your bulletin board or refrigerator.
You'll always be able to find what you need and keep in touch!

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To renew your membership, use the form on page 17, or go online to: **www.CharityAlumni.org**

Mark your calendar for the
Spring Alumni Luncheon
February 27, 2016



Volume 48 Spring 2016

From the President

By Bryan J. Camus '12

So, how's everyone been? I missed seeing y'all at the last Alumni Luncheon! Even worse, I've missed the last board meeting AND the last Senior Lunch! So now, I am tasked with doing one of my (few and easy) tasks as president of the Alumni Association: write this letter for the *White Cap*. I've been beating my brains out as I tried to come up with something to talk about since I usually go on about what I've been seeing at the last meetings and school functions. But this time? Nada. Zilch. Bupkis. Life got in the way, people got sick, jobs got changed. I missed it all so I ended up with nothing to talk about.

BUT then I realized that what was happening around me - with work, with school, with my family, and with the Alumni Association - were the very things I always try to talk about in these letters. My fellow alumni stepped up to take over as needed! Help was given without asking and support was always there for me. In other words, the finest examples of caring I could have imagined, Charity Alumni style!

What I experienced firsthand were the very things I love about all of you! You folks are always there! A student falls on hard times? The Alumni set up a Student Assistance Fund. CASN needs financial help to participate at conventions? The Alumni write a check. The faculty needs an update on NCLEX? The Alumni are there to make it happen. I've said it before and I'll say it again, YOU ARE AWESOME!

Groovin' on the '60s

Everyone should know by now that I like my musical references. So you know I am super excited about the Alumni Breakfast this fall because we are doing a 1960s theme! How cool is that, since the '60s gave us the greatest music EVER! (Oh, sure, the '50s gave us Elvis, Buddy Holly, Little Richard, and Peggy Lee.



Above, Gloria Armagnac '45 and Helena Asprion '98; below, members of the Class of '66 greet each other at the Alumni Luncheon in February

BUT the '60s gave us Dylan, Janis Joplin, Ray Charles, the Beatles, Elvis Part II and SMOKEY! I rest my case.)

Gettin' It All Together

We often find ourselves longing for the simple days of the past... But really, was there ever a weirder, scarier, more confusing decade than the 1960s?! The Cuban Missile Crisis, the Viet Nam War, assassinations, social upheaval... yet it was also a time of wonderful changes - civil rights, the women's movement - and of course, tremendous creativity in art - and MUSIC! - and a powerful embracing of peace and joyfulness. What a time it was!

And we are going to be rockin' it at the Alumni Breakfast in September! We are challenging each of you to wear your grooviest '60s outfit - and there will be prizes for the best ones! (For you youngsters: 1960s fashion was not just tie-dye and hippies in fringe vests. It was also British Mod, Go-Go boots, →



Holly Golightly's little black dress, and Nehru jackets.)

Since it's 2016, we are also going to celebrate the "6ers" - all those years that end in 6! There are already reunions planned for the Classes of 1956 (60 Years!) and 1966 (50 Years!), but we hope there will be many more. Are you listening, Graduates of 1976, 1986, 1996 and 2006? If you'd like to organize a reunion of your class or even just try and get a bunch of your old friends together at the Breakfast, contact the Alumni Association and we can send you all the contact information we have for your classmates. You won't believe how much fun it is to get the old gang all together - and meet other alumni, too!

So enjoy *The White Cap*, but be sure to mark your calendar NOW for September 24, fill out the form on page 23, or go online to order your tickets at www.CharityAlumni.org. Be There or Be Square!

I was looking for a song to wrap things up on, and I thought about "Respect" (Aretha Franklin, 1967), "Stand By Me" (Ben E. King, 1961), or perhaps "What a Wonderful World" (Louis Armstrong, 1968), but there was just too much good stuff to decide on one song. So regardless, I WILL see everyone at the Breakfast in the fall! I'll Be There - River Deep, Mountain High! ❖

SAINTS Pre-Season Tickets: Silent Auction Ends July 31



Once again, we are auctioning two Saints pre-season tickets, donated by Dr. Paul Hilbert, to benefit the Leona Hilbert Scholarship Fund at Charity School of Nursing!

The winner of the silent auction gets two great tickets to the **Saints vs Pittsburgh Steelers** Pre-Season game on **Friday night, August 26** at 7:00pm at the Mercedes Benz Superdome!

The seats are in the Sideline Endzone, Section 307 (nice, cushy seats with cup holders). These are in the Loge Level Club section and include access to the Bienville Club Lounge and premium concessions.

This is a silent auction, that is, you won't know what others are bidding, so make your best offer. The bidding closes at **noon on Sunday, July 31**. Your bid is for the two tickets together, not individual tickets. The face value of the tickets is well over \$300. Starting bid is \$100.

Bids will be accepted only through our email. Simply email your bid to chsnaaoffice@gmail.com. (Please put "Saints Tickets" in the subject line.) Or you can bid from

our website www.CharityAlumni.org. Use the button on the "Cool Stuff" page.

Email your bid by July 31!

The winner will be notified by email immediately after the close of bidding, and arrangements made for payment to the CHSN Alumni Association. The winner will be emailed the Ticketfast tickets from the Saints' season ticket Ticketmaster website.

So bid high to win! Go Saints! ❖

From the Executive Director

By Lista Hank '97



Did you receive the **Honor Pin** when you graduated? I am working with a faculty committee that is trying to do

follow-ups on Honor Pin recipients, but we discovered that a comprehensive list doesn't exist! We identified some through the yearbooks, but we are clueless for a lot of years, especially with the diploma classes. So if you received the Honor Pin, please let us know by calling or emailing the Alumni Office!

Diploma Pick-Up

AD grads: If you did not claim your DCC diploma at the graduation ceremony, you can pick it up at the School of Nursing **until June 30** at the 6th floor Registrar's Office, Monday through Friday, 10am until 2pm. After that, all diplomas will be at the City Park Campus Registrar's office. We've heard that some employers are now requesting diplomas when you apply for jobs, so if you never bothered to pick up your diploma you might want to consider it.

Nominations

Board elections this fall will be for President-Elect, Treasurer, Nominating Chair, and two Board positions. Nominations are due by October 1, and the ballot will be in the *Alumni News* at the end of the year. If you want more information about the duties of the different positions, and how to run, contact the Alumni Office.

Write to Us!

Been on a medical mission? Have an interesting or unusual job? Got a great Charity memory? Write an article about an experience you've had that would interest other alumni. Or just let us know what you've been up to since you graduated. We love to hear from

Continued on page 17

Charity Alumni Office: 504-571-1395
chsnaaoffice@gmail.com

Rites of Spring

After a long, cold winter, the February 2016 Alumni Luncheon was a warm welcome to spring and Charity Alumni flocked to the Chateau Golf & Country Club like the first robins!

After an hour of greeting friends, socializing, and shopping for alumni souvenirs and school t-shirts, we bowed our heads for the blessing by **Jenn Garnand '11** and settled in for a delicious lunch. Charity-leaved tree-of-life centerpieces topped with bluebirds decorated the tables, as we enjoyed trout amandine and stuffed breast of chicken.

Dr. Cheryl Myers, Dean of the School of Nursing, gave us a report on current events at the school (see page 11 for her report) and thanked the alumni for their support.

Spirituality and Nursing

Special Guest Frances Hawkins, a RN with Baptist Community Ministries, made a short educational presentation about faith-based nursing, noting that the School of Nursing has a spiritual connection dating back to the Daughters of Charity. Faith Community Nursing was established as a specialty in 1997, and has proven outcome benefits. The specialty is accepted by the ANA, and received certification approval in 2014. Frances concluded by wishing everyone a miraculous day.

Amazing Numbers

The Roll Call of Classes was especially exciting at this get-together - over 140 alumni were in attendance! The **Class of 1966** is planning their 50th reunion for this September, but they are so excited that a full fifteen members of the class attended the luncheon! What a reunion that will be this fall! The **Class of 1974** also had a great showing with

Right: Goldie Huguenel '56, Sandra Robert '56, Virgis Boudreaux '56, RoseJeanne Buccola '49, Mary Singletary '49, Julia Schomaker '52, Rosalie Aucoin '52.



Left to right, front to back: From the Class of 66, Kitty Crawford, Lorraine Penrod, Rita Broussard, Bobbie Bartee, Joan deLaureal, Helen Devall and Joan Ibos.

nine, and 1968 had six in attendance!

Marie Gaudet Beaulieu '46, **Gloria Armagnac '45**, and **Elizabeth Knight Vanderwall '42**, were presented Platinum Anniversary certificates for 70 and 70-plus years! **Danielle Chambers '14** was acknowledged as the newest and most recent graduate Sustaining Member.

Election Results

Patrick Reed '90, Chair of the Nominating Committee, announced the results of the fall election: **Joycelyn Jeansonne '78** was elected Secretary; **Patrick Brady '83** and **Vivian Manes '70** were elected to the Board. The newly elected officers recited their oaths of office, and are raring to go for the new year! →



Beverly Cazayoux '61 had the winning bid of \$157 for a gorgeous papier-mache plaque of the Charity Pin created by Joe Barthe of the Barthe Bros. The 50/50 drawing prize of \$288 went to **Rita Bolick**, a guest of **Nancy Gentry '74**. Rita probably wasn't expecting that!

The singing of the Alma Mater was led by **Cindy Beniger '68**, and as the last chords wafted through the air, we disbanded like so many dandelion seeds on the summer breezes, clutching centerpieces and souvenirs, each making promises of "See you soon!" and "We'll be back in September!" ❖



Top to bottom, left to right:
Betty Hebert '68, Cindy Beniger '68 and Marianne McCrory '68; Ross Cunningham '84, Charlene Berger '79 and Ursula Allain '65; Suzy Andry '59, Ginger Andry '58 and RoseJeanne Buccola '49; Sharon Burel '80, Marie Beaulieu '46 and Bridget Johnson-Medley '95; Joycelyn Jeansonne '78, Patrick Brady '83 and Vivian Manes '70; Elizabeth Vanderwall '42. →



Left to right, top to bottom: Nell Bourgeois '61 and Melba Weiss '61; Marcelle Lambert '15 and Ima Lechler '15; Patrick Reed '90 and guest Frances Hawkins; Patricia Brue '95, Bill Rintala '95 and Linda Rintala at the Alumni Luncheon in February.



Alumni News and Notes

Peggy Allen Stevens '49 (*Point St. Joe, FL*): "I worked for 36 years as a registered nurse, and I am so proud to be a Charity Alumni! I had wonderful, wonderful training at Charity - and I loved every classmate I had! I treasure all the memories."

Bill Odom (*Tyler, TX*) sent us the CHSN cape of his late mother, **Shirley Donnelly Odom '49**. "My mother wanted to donate her cape to the alumni, and she would be very happy to know that the cape was of benefit to you," he wrote. "Also, I found a book from the Charity Hospital library I am returning." The book was *Odds on Love*. We will never know if Shirley's keeping the book was just an oversight, or if it had special significance to her, but now it is back at Charity - perhaps with it's own bit of history.

Carolyn Hays Reich '55 (*Vestavia, AL*) and **Sylvia Ekel Wilkins '60** (*Brush, CO*) both sent us wonderful treasure boxes of Charity mementoes! Carolyn sent her letter of acceptance, Student Handbook, and time cards with her student work assignments, plus her cape, uniform and even bandage scissors. Sylvia sent her Nightingale lamp, acceptance letter, brochures, registration information, receipts for tuition, time cards, assignments, Nurses Experience Record Book, programs and even disciplinary actions, plus her graduation uniform. What an amazing collection - and invaluable to our archives! These provide a priceless window into the lives of Charity students in the 1950s and 60s.

Continued on page 8

National Convention Teaches “Leadership is for Everyone”

By Delinda Hawkins '16

Nine members of CASN, the Charity Association of Student Nurses, attended the annual convention of the National Student Nurse Association (NSNA) in Orlando, Florida, this spring. We joined other nursing students from across the country and took part in activities to aid us in our pathway to becoming successful nurses. This valuable experience was made possible by the generous assistance of the alumni toward our travel expenses.

Convention offered so many learning opportunities! ANA President Pamela Cipriano spoke about the importance of leadership and advocacy in our profession. Other speakers challenged us to explore ethical dilemmas we may encounter. Focus sessions gave us specific information about the many career paths in nursing, and the large exhibit hall offered information on professional organizations like AORN and CCEN, as well as the varied opportunities to further our education. Some attended a mini-NCLEX review course, and an American Red Cross Disaster Certification seminar.

We also attended the House of Delegates where resolutions (written by nursing students) were presented, debated and then denied or accepted by vote. Resolutions reflected a wide variety of topics relevant to nursing today, like medical marijuana use.

Powerful and Inspiring

I personally returned from the convention refreshed and encouraged by all of the other student nurses attending. Having hundreds of people with the same goal in one location is a powerful thing. The inspirational speakers reinforced my determination to be the best nurse I can be, as cliché as it sounds. We heard from Matthew Jones, three-time cancer survivor, on the first night. He affirmed my belief in the power of a positive attitude with his stories about the nurses that made him “get up” when he was down. We could see how essential it is for us to be a positive presence to patients who are in difficult situations.

Along with the education, there was also a lot of fun as we connected with nursing students from around the country. Charity students represented the New Orleans spirit by throwing Mardi Gras beads at the Opening Night Party, and we found a little time for a quick visit to DisneyWorld. Our group of Charity students formed close friendships and had conversations that would never have happened without this special adventure together. These are bonds that won't be broken!



Left to right: CASN members Chantee Turner, Alisa Terrell, Reid Rogers, Vicky Seghers and Delinda Hawkins

I asked the Charity students to tell you what meant the most to them at the convention, and this is some of what they said:

Alisa Terrell, Level 3: “Convention taught me that leadership is for everyone. I did not think of myself as a ‘leader’ until I realized that leadership can be as small as joining an organization at school. It can also be volunteering when there is a need. The NSNA convention encouraged me to take initiative and be a leader at my nursing school. I am grateful to have had this experience.”

Melissa Stevens, Level 3: “My favorite part of convention was listening to the awe-inspiring story of keynote speaker Matt Jones. His story of overcoming adversity, multiple times in his battle with cancer, really resonated with me. So now when faced with struggles, I think ‘What would Matt do?’ The answer is simple: Take action to achieve victory.”

Francis Lauland, Level 4: “Going to convention was a wonderful experience. It was amazing to see that many student nurses in one place, and it made me feel like I was part of something huge and that nurses really do have the power to create positive change. I left feeling inspired to join my local and national organizations and very proud of the nursing profession.”

Reid Rogers, Level 3: “I wish that all students were able to see how amazing NSNA was. It opened our eyes to what really goes on in the world of nursing behind closed doors. I enjoyed motivational speakers the most; they really pull your heartstrings. NSNA opens you up to a whole new world.”

Chantee Turner, Level 3: “The most memorable →

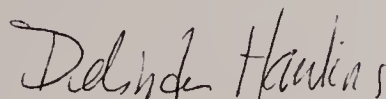
part of the NSNA convention was when I went to the resolution hearing. This is where I learned as a student nurse, we have a VOICE! We are able to make changes not only in our place of learning, but in our communities as well. We are able to write proposals that can go all the way to the Supreme Court by implementing changes or by adding new policies in schools, and in hospitals across America. Nursing students can make a difference in the world!!"

Each student who attended the NSNA convention came away with a different benefit, but the final results were the same: All the students experienced a push to become leaders and had their eyes opened to new pathways and opportunities in nursing.

The CASN students appreciate you, Alumni, for all your support, and especially for your help with our convention travel expenses.

Thank you from our hearts!

Delinda Hawkins



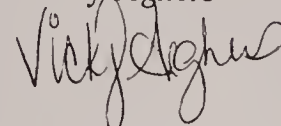
Reid Rogers




Chantee Turner



Vicky Seghers



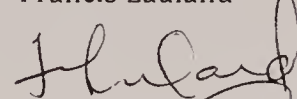
Melissa Stevens



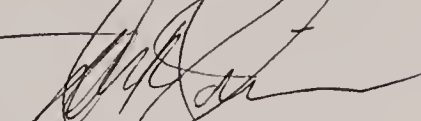
Alisa Terrell



Francis Lauland



Deb Ursin



Zayba Rexford



NODNA Student Banquet

New Orleans District Nurses Association (NODNA) Student Nurses Banquet in April was attended by many Charity students thanks to sponsorship by the Charity School of Nursing Alumni Association. Guest Speaker Dr. Patricia F. Pearce of Loyola University School of Nursing spoke on "Next Step in Nursing: Igniting Passion and Lighting the Way." ❖

Charity State Chapters?

Kathy Romero '69 lives in Knoxville, and is trying to start a Tennessee Chapter of the Alumni Association. "Other colleges have State Chapters, so I'd like to see if Charity grads in my state are interested," says Kathy. She isn't sure what the chapter will do, but is contacting other Tennessee alums to see if they want to have meetings, or share transportation to alumni events. If you are living in Tennessee and want to contact Kathy, her email address is whodat5163@yahoo.com. If you are in another state and think you would like to start a state chapter, contact the Alumni Office and we can give you contact information for other alumni in your area. ❖

Senior Lunch

As we do each semester, the Alumni Association provided lunch for the graduating seniors on their Professional Issues Day at the end of April. The students spend the day making group presentations about issues they will face as nurses, and the lunch is a good opportunity for us to introduce ourselves and encourage the seniors to become active in the Alumni Association. Alumni volunteers poured soft drinks as seniors helped themselves to red beans & rice, salad and brownies. Each student was presented with their first-year membership card in the



Ann Dieck '80, Joan Hodge '75 and Vivian Manes '70 volunteered for the Alumni Association's lunch for the graduating seniors at the end of April.

Alumni Association, and we drew names for lots of fun door prizes. Thank you to the volunteers who helped out: current faculty **Mary Trosclair '73** and **Ann Dieck '80**, retired faculty **Joan Hodge '75**, **Vivian Manes '70**, and CSN librarian **Sharon Robinson**. ❖

Nurses Week

The Alumni Association showed our heartfelt appreciation of the Charity faculty during Nurses Week in May by presenting Charity badge holders to all the faculty members. ❖



Alumni News and Notes

Continued from page 5

Nancy Comish '57 (*Starkville, MS*) "Thank you! Thank you! Thank you! I ordered one of each of the t-shirts. Even at eighty, I wear them proudly!"

Katherine Norris Romero '69 (*Knoxville, TN*): "I am so happy to be a graduate of CHSN! The experience and the knowledge that I received there has carried me through many challenging circumstances. I have worked the majority of my professional career as a Director of Surgical Services, after working in that capacity on 12th floor at CHNO. **Ursula Allain '65** was a fabulous mentor, as was **Gwen LaMothe '74**. Not a day went by when I did not think of my role model Sister Stanislaus, and how she would have handled challenges within the surgical suite. I am also so blessed to have worked for Sister Camilla on Orthopedics and Sister Josephine in Nursing Service. I taught Senior Med/Surg Nursing (Neurosurgery) at Charity from 1971 to 1973. My name then was Kathy Lee.

After leaving Louisiana, I served as a Director of Surgical Services in the states of Utah, Nevada and now in Tennessee with Covenant Health-Knoxville. I have certifications as a CNOR, and a CBN. I am still employed full-time, but moved out of the Operating Room. Currently I am the Program Director of the Bariatric Service line, and the nurse manager of the Orthopedic floor. My CHNO Orthopedic days serve me well!

They say it's a small world, and that is so true! Recently my roommate at Charity, **Connie Catonese Ricketts '69** told me that she was relocating to East Tennessee! What a thrill for us both to be so close geographically. Now I'm trying to start a state chapter of the Alumni Association! I have also been happy that Facebook has allowed me to reconnect with the other roommates, **Denise Lovelace Rollins** and **Cheryl Morris Bailey**. We shared one of the big, center dorm rooms.

I am looking forward to returning to NOLA, to attend the annual Bariatric Obesity Week convention, October 31-Nov 4. It makes me sad to see Charity Hospital in its current state. Many happy memories were made there!"

William Wilkinson '75 (*Tucson, AZ*) is the Grand Lodge Attorney for the Arizona Freemasons. Will was honored with the High Twelve International President's All Star Honor for 2015 for "exemplifying our motto in service to Freemasonry" at the Mason conference in New Orleans in January 2016, for his service as the High Twelve International General Counsel. Will was also named a 2016 Tucson Fabulous 50 Nurse by the Tucson Nurses Week Foundation.

Patricia Dufrene '85 (*Metairie, LA*) was one of three

Louisiana nurses selected in December by LSNA to receive the 2015 Joe Ann Clark Graduate Nursing Education Award. The \$1,500 award provides financial support to Louisiana registered nurses pursuing graduate education with the goal of becoming nurse educators. Patricia has been a RN for 30 years, graduating from Charity's diploma program, then earning a BSN, and a Masters CNS in pediatric cardiology and cardiovascular surgery. She is now in a PhD program in Nursing Administration and Education at William Carey University, and expects to graduate in August 2016. Among her many roles in the nursing community, Patricia serves on the CHSN Alumni Association's Advisory Committee, and is the Director of Education for the Louisiana State Board of Nursing.

This spring, **Kevin Besse '91** (*Rayne, LA*) was installed as Treasurer for the LSNA District IV Board of Directors. **Jackie Hebert '77** (*Lafayette, LA*) is continuing her term as Vice-President for the Lafayette area association.

Patricia Pittman Brue '95 (*Metairie, LA*): "I have been teaching in the LPN program at Delgado for 10 years. My two sisters and I were all graduates of Charity School of Nursing. **Joe Pittman Fontana '96** is now remarried (her last name is Daigle) and lives in Thibodaux, LA. **Margie Pittman Upshaw '06** (now Pittman) lives in Houma. They are both surgery nurses for their careers. We meet monthly to sew and quilt for local charities. We three sisters are proud of the School of Nursing and have very fond memories of school. Nursing has kept us together in a special way. Charity School of Nursing has made a major change in our lives over the years, and for that I am very grateful. I share that love with my students and encourage them all to move forward to the RN program and higher. Many of my students have gone on to enroll in the Charity program. I look forward to seeing some at alumni events!"

Two Charity grads, **Dawn Audler '12** and **Devin Reimmuth '13** (*both of New Orleans*) were among the first thirty-one nurses to graduate from the Ochsner Leadership Institute Nurse Residency Program in December. The new year-long residency program is a professional development program that seeks to help "Advanced Beginner Nurses" progress to "Competent Nurses." The participants met eight hours monthly for interactive discussions and case studies to explore a variety of topics including ethics, management strategies and evidence-based practices. The residents presented five posters at the 7th Annual Evidence-Based Practice/Research Conference themed "Translating Research into Practice: What Works and What Doesn't" at the Oschner Jefferson Highway campus in October 2015. ❖

Graduation Awards

The Spring 2016 Pinning Ceremony was on May 12, and special recognition goes to the recipients of these Graduation Awards: **Delinda Hawkins**, Honor Pin and the NODNA Leadership Award; **Vicky Seghers**, Award of Distinction; **Neeka Arceneaux**, Sister Stanislaus Malone Award; **Chevaye' Johnson**, Sister Blanche McDonnell Alumni Award; **Cheri Aucoin**, Margaret Palmisano Alumni Award; **Francis Lauland** and **Lauren Brunelle**, tied for the highest GPA.

Fall 2015

The Pinning Ceremony for the Fall 2015 graduates took place on December 10, 2015. Award winners among these Associate Degree graduates in nursing were: **Sabrina Seals**, Honor Pin; **Claudia Paguada**, who had the highest grade-point average and received the Sister Stanislaus Malone Award;



Top to bottom, left to right: Dr. Myers, Dean of Nursing, presents the Spring 2016 Honor Pin to Delinda Hawkins and, in Fall 2015, the Honor Pin to Sabrina Seals as faculty Ann Dieck '80 applauds. The Sister Blanche McDonnell Alumni Award went to Chevaye' Johnson for Spring 2016 and Yma Lechler for Fall 2015. Delgado Chancellor Dr. Joan Y. Davis looks on as Dr. Myers presents the Sister Stanislaus Malone Award to Neeka Arceneaux at the Spring 2016 Pinning Ceremony.



Yma Lechler, the Sister Blanche McDonnell Alumni Award; **Hannah Russell**, the Margaret Palmisano Alumni Award; **Vanessa Fayard**, the Award of Distinction and the NODNA Leadership Award.

The Theresa Bittinbring & John Henry Marque Fund Student Nurse Award, which is presented to the top five students in the 2015-16 academic year, went to: **Brad Abbate** and **Claudia Paguada** for Fall 2015; **Lauren Brunelle**, **Francis Lauland** and **Devon Hardy** for Spring 2016.

Pins from Alumni

The **Class of 1965** donated funds to provide Charity pins for six students who were unable to afford to purchase pins in the December 2015 graduating class. **Sydney Womack '57** provided a pin for one student graduating in May 2016 who couldn't afford her pin. These students were able to participate in the Pinning Ceremony because of the generosity of these alumni.

Congratulations to all the graduates of the 2015-16 school year! We are so proud of all of you. We wish you the best of luck in your nursing careers and welcome you into the Alumni Association! ❖



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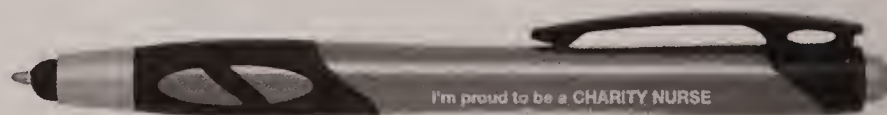
Charity Alumni NOLA

See more photos at:

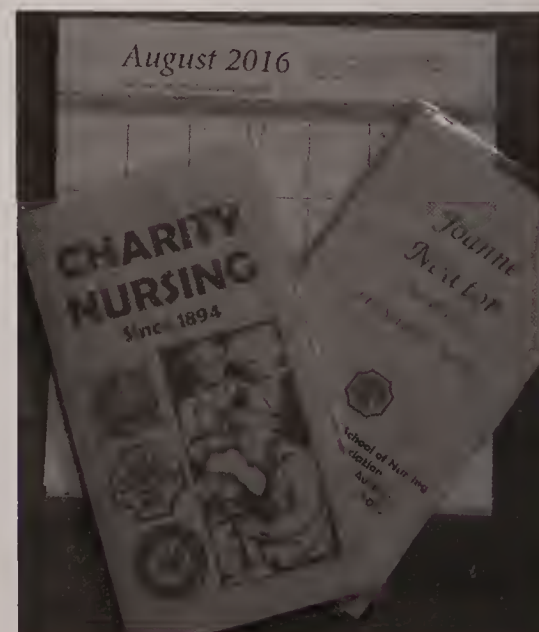
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Members who join or renew at the \$25 level or above receive their choice of gifts: a 2-year personalized pocket planner, Charity luggage tag, Charity stylus pen, or a vintage postcard of the dorm.



Use the form on page 23, or pay securely online at our website:
www.CharityAlumni.org



Deans Report

By Cheryl Myers, PhD, RN

Executive Dean CSN Campus/Dean of Nursing

Spring Greetings from the School of Nursing! We concluded our 2015-16 academic year sending a total of 278 eager new graduates into the world of professional nursing, grounded in the knowledge and skills that make Charity alumni recognized world-wide.

The Class of December 2015, was the second largest graduating class in the history of the associate degree program, with 158 graduates! We are extremely proud of our new graduates and know they will uphold the reputation of the Charity name.

Applications to the nursing program continue to exceed the number of students we can accommodate and enrollment is healthy. For the Fall 2016 semester, we anticipate approximately 650 students in the RN program, 100 in the PN program and 20 in the CNA program. We always have a need for adjunct clinical instructors, and we'd love to have our Charity graduates back to work with us! If you have a master's in nursing and are interested in clinical teaching, or know someone who might be, please email me at cmeyers@dcc.edu.

The release of state bond money for our new Nursing and Allied Health location is temporarily on hold due to the current state budget issues. However, we continue to discuss and plan our strategy for the time when the money will become available.

Thank you for your support of our students through the scholarship fund, the emergency fund, and the funding provided for travel to the National Student Nurses Association Convention. Without this financial support, many of our students would not be able to achieve their dream of being a Charity graduate!

I would also like to thank you for providing funding for the faculty development program we had this May (*see story below*), which will allow us to ensure our curriculum is keeping up with current trends in nursing education, healthcare and the NCLEX-RN test plan.

Wishing each of you a safe, restful summer! ❖

New Alumni Fund Provides Education for Charity Faculty

The Alumni Association has launched a new initiative in support of Charity School of Nursing - the **Faculty Development Fund**. This fund will enable us to invest in Charity's faculty in order to improve student outcomes. We believe every dollar we spend on faculty education will have a multiplier effect that will benefit every current and future Charity student.



Left to right, Tina Rayfield and Dr. Cheryl Myers

The Faculty Development Fund addresses a pressing need at Charity School of Nursing. According to Charity's Dean, **Dr. Cheryl Meyers**, the School of Nursing has hired approximately fifteen new full-time faculty over the past five years. Though all are clinical experts, these faculty had minimal, if any, nursing education experience. Due to severe state budget cuts to higher education, there is little college funding for faculty development to help new teachers get up to speed on the mechanics of curriculum and test-preparation, as well as current educational theory.

Workshop in May

We began the Faculty Development initiative in May 2016 with a workshop by **Tina Rayfield**, RN, PA-C, President and CEO of Sylvia Rayfield & Associates. "Ms. Rayfield is a nationally known expert in nursing education and NCLEX preparation," says Dr. Meyers. "She visited Charity to provide a one-day workshop for the faculty focusing on updating faculty to the new practice analysis and test plan, as well as working with faculty on analyzing program tests to ensure testing throughout the curriculum is at the level that will ensure graduate success on the NCLEX."

The NCLEX is the national exam taken by nursing school graduates to obtain their state nursing licenses, roughly equivalent to what used to be called State Boards. A computerized test, it is designed to evaluate application of nursing knowledge and critical thinking skills. A test-taker's performance is compared to pre-established criteria rather than others taking the same test. Test questions, content and structure are based on exhaustive research →

and statistical analysis, and evolve on a regular basis.

Keeping Current

“Every three years, the National Council of State Boards of Nursing (NCSBN) conducts a ‘practice analysis’ which is then used by NCSBN to evaluate the validity of the NCLEX-RN test plan,” says Dr. Meyers. “As the role of the RN and the care delivered changes, the NCLEX test plan and the passing standard also change. In April 2016, a new test plan went into effect. This test plan guides content distribution of the licensure exam. In order for the faculty to ensure the curriculum remains current, and includes content that will appear on the licensing exam, it is important for us to be informed about the changes in the test plan.”

The workshop was not just important for new teachers, but for the seasoned educators as well. “Having Ms. Rayfield work with us was an invaluable experience for both new and experienced faculty,” reported Dr. Meyers. “The knowledge, experience, and national perspective she brought will enhance the skills of the faculty, as well as help us ensure Charity School of Nursing remains a premier program with well educated, skilled graduates.”

We hope to provide funding for valuable educational offerings like this workshop every semester. We know that a fabulous faculty leads to terrific graduates, and we want to support Charity’s great faculty as much as we can, especially now that support from the state is becoming scarcer. You can make donations to the Faculty Development Fund by using the form on page 23, or on our website: CharityAlumni.org. ❖

Workshop Energizes Faculty

By Barbara Zeugner, CSN Faculty

The last day of the academic year usually finds bedraggled faculty scurrying to tie up loose ends as they anticipate the lazy days of summer. Thanks to the generous gift from the Alumni Association, another scenario unfolded on May 12, as the Charity faculty gathered to attend a full day workshop by **Tina Rayfield** on NCLEX test-writing.

You may remember Tina's mother Sylvia Rayfield who many of us "grew up" on. She may have done your NCLEX review course many moons ago, and she had a long and respected career teaching nurse-educators. Well, the apple doesn't fall far from the tree. Tina was fantastic, AMAZING, riveting and so helpful to faculty to isolate problem areas in test-writing.

Facing Challenges

The workshop would have been valuable under any circumstances, but its impact will be especially meaningful this year. Every three years, the National Council of State Boards of Nursing revises the NCLEX.

Unfortunately, since the most recent revision, nursing schools across the nation have witnessed a dramatic decrease in nursing students’ pass rates. Pass rates for Associate Degree programs across the country decreased from 89.4% to 81.43%. This is great cause for concern. The faculty at Charity have been challenged to understand the apparent disconnect between classroom/clinical teaching and successful performance on the NCLEX.

Tina Rayfield presented a skillful analysis of the challenges and engaged the faculty in probing potential solutions to the problem. She gave us concrete strategies on how to improve our own test construction to ensure that our students will be better prepared for the NCLEX.

One of many teaching principles asserts that people tend to remember the first and the last thing they are taught. Faculty closed out their last day feeling energized, equipped and grateful to the Alumni Association for providing the opportunity to work with this nurse-educator extraordinaire. Tina Rayfield’s wisdom and guidance will help us to ensure that our graduates will continue to successfully carry on the Charity School of Nursing legacy of excellence. ❖

Goodbyes

Jessie Pearl Holman Stoer '45: “It was at Charity School of Nursing that my mother acquired the nickname ‘Penny’ which stuck with her the rest of her life! She was so proud to have attended Charity, and she used the skills she learned there to excel as a nurse and nursing supervisor. She taught many other nurses those same skills. She married my father, Dr. Haywood Stoer, who also was associated with Charity Hospital. My mother loved to read *The White Cap*. It gave her such pleasure to read about the current happenings and brought back so many of her memories of Charity.” - *Jan Stoer Routon*

Janis Pederson Ladnier '50: “Janis died in February 2016. She was so proud of being a Charity grad, as I am. Thank you for the *Alumni News*. God Bless Charity.” - *Nedra Hooper Ely '50*

Viola Mable Partaker Hondroulis '51 was born in Burlington, Wisconsin in 1925. She was an honored Navy Veteran who served as a Lt. JG in both WWII and the Korean War. She served in the Navy from 1945-1954. She graduated from Charity Hospital School of Nursing in 1951 with honors that resulted in her induction into the *Who's Who of Outstanding Nurses* at the Smithsonian Institute. She moved to Baltimore, MD, and worked in St. Agnes Hospital from 1953 to 1958, when she moved to the French Quarter; the Eye, Ear, Nose and Throat Hospital, Charity Hospital, Mercy Hospital, Southern

Continued on page 15

Scholarships

At the February 2016 Promotion and Awards Ceremony at Charity, the Alumni Association presented \$7,750 in scholarships and awards made possible by the support of our alumni and friends. We congratulate the recipients, and thank all those who generously donated for scholarships and pins! (Photos, left to right, top to bottom):

Level 2: **Kelly Ward**, the Sister Blanche McDonnell Scholarship.

Level 3: **Carmen Berggren**, the Leona Kruebbe and Dr. Gerard Hilbert Scholarship, and **Sara Trahan**, the Hugh and Maria Garcia Roach Scholarship. **Joycelyn Jeansonne '78** presents the Sister Camilla Gaudin Scholarship to **Tyrone Mathieu**.

Level 4: **Delinda Hawkins**, the Gloria Ashman Scholarship; **Renee Issawi**, the Jeansonne Scholarship; **Vicky Seghers**, the Julia Spratt Scholarship; **Kelley Brenes**, the Mary Ann Signorelli Whynot Scholarship, **Melynda Sciortino**, the Marcelle Jacobs Wright Scholarship, and **Devon Hardy**, the Sally Cooper Alumni Scholarship.

Level 4 Pin Awards: **Alicia Scott**, Peggy Begnaud Johns Award; **Cheri Aucoin**, Ruth Wallace Award; **Zinnia Macloud**, Arthur Joseph Delima Jr. Award; and (not pictured) **Brittany Brooks**, Sylvia Obregon Moffitt Award; **Nadina Melara**, Martha Meaux Genin Award.

The Federation of Registered Professional and Licensed Practical Nurses of Charity Hospital Award, RN program, was presented by **Ursula Allain '65** and **Roberta Bartee '66** to **Erica McCant**. **Marie Bertineau** (not pictured) received the Federation Award, PN program. ❖



Members of Note

SUSTAINING MEMBERS

Gloria Redmond Ashman ‘48
Sherrill Hooper Millard ‘50
Rowena Smith Christensen ‘51
Celina Machin Haynie ‘51
Betty Ogea Moore ‘51
Hazel MacKillican Wilson ‘52
Marijean Martin Pruett ‘54
Rita Jo Neary Ellsworth ‘55
Mary McBride ‘57
Jean Altice Blake ‘58
Esther Ogea Doucet ‘60
Joan Arceneaux Levasseur ‘60
Frances Petho Aponte ‘61
Joan Bero ‘63
Barbara Johnson Roger ‘63
Dorothy Russell Stagg ‘63
Penny Kistler Tolchin ‘63
Geraldine Bourgeois Daigle ‘64
Janette Foy Forsythe ‘64
Judith Wellman Quigley ‘64
Estelle LeBlanc Rome ‘64
Linda Sue Grimme Fontenot ‘65
Beverly Poche Chapoton ‘67
Jean Hageney Houin ‘67
Karen Moulliet ‘67
Peggy Portie Parigi ‘67
Betty Schweitzer Touns ‘67
Louanna Cardinale Whiddon ‘67
Dr. Marelle Yongue ‘67
Barbara “Bobbi” Bonner Folse ‘68
Charlotte Arras ‘71
Marian Foret Offner ‘71
Jo Ann Rizzutto ‘71
D. Paxson Barker ‘72
Rosalie Parenton Vincent ‘72
Dennis and Lynel Pinkozie ‘73
Wilda Taylor ‘73
Mary Iannazzo Trosclair ‘73
Susan Duhon ‘74
Charlene White Persich ‘74
Mary Susan Le Compte Farrar ‘75
Julie M. Joyce ‘75
Vicky P. Kent ‘75
Maureen Connelly Mayeux ‘75
Barbara McClees ‘75
Joseph Nigliazzo, Jr. ‘75
Graciela Pinto-Leyva ‘75
Jeannette Milligan Saal ‘75
Jan Carrio ‘76
Bryanne Murray Hamill ‘76
Lane E. McAlister Pierce ‘76
Myra Lee DiGange ‘77
Sheila Perrault Dahlgren ‘78
Marilyn Nola Hammett ‘78
Joycelyn Jeansonne ‘78
Sandra Tracy Bailey ‘79
William Borne ‘79
Vickie Morrow Gibert ‘79

Cindy Tschrin Nuesslein ‘79
Karen DelValle Tampira ‘79
Claudette Boudreaux ‘80
Belinda Hutchinson Janeski ‘80
Cydney Trahans Begnaud ‘81
Elizabeth Kelly Carlini ‘82
Renee Rago Schuller ‘83
Patricia Dufrene ‘85
Elaine Riecke Bergeron ‘86
Gina West Ragland ‘86
Kevin Besse ‘91
Michael Harrison ‘92
Betty Trosclair Loumiet ‘92
Mitzi Ridgdell Arnold ‘93
Craig A. Cedotal ‘94
Margaret Johnson Jackson ‘96
Brenda Shields Simmons ‘96
Elizabeth Scanlan Bowen ‘97
Lista Hank ‘97
Roxanne LeBlanc McNally ‘97
Cynthia Fernandez ‘10
Elaine Lauga ‘12
Danielle Chambers ‘14



SISTER STANISLAUS 2016

Grace Spedale Ladd ‘46
S. Joanne Philbrook Newton ‘56
Rita Borne Broussard ‘66
Patricia Darcy Weed ‘68
Carolyn M. Bartsch ‘70
Patti Rouchon Burcham ‘70
Pamela Elias Welsh ‘70
Camille Bourgeois Whittaker ‘70
Mary Doucet Hains ‘72
Jamie Walker Jensen ‘75
Renee B. Guidry ‘87

SILVER STAR 2016

Dorothy Sumrall Livingston ‘50
Dolores Marsh Alford ‘51
Marion Thibodaux Gatti ‘54
Joyce Allen Urode ‘60
Rosemary Hathorn Holmes ‘62
Madeleine Moreau Crawford ‘63
Marilee Keating Phillips ‘64
Susan Thibodeaux Grace ‘65
Constance Kennedy Proctor ‘65
Sandra Woessner Zeringue ‘65
Elaine Ledoux Phares ‘66
JoAnn Pierce Ligon ‘66
Mary Reck Andrulot ‘68
Brenda Crump Trosclair ‘68
Cynthia Castagnetta Burke ‘70
Linda Boudreaux Guedry ‘70
Bonnie Hensley-Mowe ‘70
Christine Hurley Carbon ‘71
Maria Compagno Roth ‘71
Rosemary Lamia Hemelt ‘72
Myra Diaz Cheramie ‘73
Stephanie Laws ‘73
Sherry Smith Simmons ‘73

Olander Belfield Holloway ‘74
Carolyn Klutz Crucia ‘76
Robin Napoli Bowman ‘83
Renée Diez Haines ‘84
Patrick D. Reed ‘90
Anne McCutchen Silverstein ‘98
Bryan J. Camus ‘12

BLUE RIBBON 2016

Margaret Middlebrooks Horn ‘46
Geneva Dufour Waters ‘48
RoseJeanne R. Buccola ‘49
Peggy Allen Stevens ‘49
Patricia Danks D’Aloise ‘50
Irene Broussard Stagg ‘50
Mary Katherine Brune Mollere ‘52
Barbara Leitner Quehl ‘55
Rosemary Schnell ‘56
Nancy Mynihan Comish ‘57
Monette Moreau Enright ‘58
Marilyn “Jody” Jacob Klein ‘58
Millie Nash Vilmerding ‘58
Maureen Sheane Sexton ‘59
Linda Megehee Benson ‘60
Elizabeth Germain Guillot ‘60
Beryl Ann Forgey Olhasso ‘60
Mary Arnold Gardner ‘61
Phyllis Bourgeois Beeching ‘63
Lynne Gordon Cook ‘63
Saundra Mallory Deaton ‘63
Barbara Hanford Freid ‘63
Yvonne Gauthier McGaha ‘63
Dorothy Russell Stagg ‘63
Kay Kirking Schmuellen ‘64
Diane Blumberg Howell ‘65
Joan Habermann DeLaurel ‘66
Yvonne Ellender Hawthorne ‘66
Lorraine Andry Penrod ‘66
Lynn Burton Rosenblatt ‘66
Elaine Plauche Sala ‘66
Sandra Cazenave Graugnard ‘67
Paulette Gallant Gravois ‘67
Evelyn McClees McNeil ‘67
Carolyn Desselle Righter ‘67
Cynthia Mouret Schexnayder ‘67
Bonnie Glover Williams ‘67
Lorraine Babin Fearheiley ‘68
Cynthia Hebert Liebel ‘68
Judith Webb McNeil ‘68
Susan Edwards Berry ‘69
Myra Bascle Porche ‘69
Josie Bailey Stanga ‘69
Madeline Ledet Giroir ‘70
J. Trudy Carrier Lefort ‘70
Mary Goodwyne Ford ‘71
Patricia LaFleur Lewis ‘71
Elaine Schiller Maguire ‘71
Nona Joyce Broussard DeRouen ‘72
Susan Pye Stone ‘72
Madeline Cerniglia Totten ‘72
LaVerne Birdsall McCormick ‘73
Nancy O’Pry Gentry ‘74
Diana Fontenot Roy ‘74
Donna Blanchard Landry ‘75
Carol Palmisano ‘75
Patricia Alley Shannon ‘75

Cindy Scheyd Caron ‘76
Marion Sams Johnson ‘76
Kay Beaulieu Kenney ‘76
Suzanne Delhomme LeMoine ‘77
Perry Meche ‘77
Karen Howard Smith ‘78
DeeAnne Posseno Jewell ‘79
Patricia Lane ‘79
Robert Martinez ‘79
Susan Hargis Earley ‘80
Jeanette Davis Robinson ‘80
Karen Jameson Rush ‘80
John Bertucci ‘81
Nancy Allebone Capponi ‘81
Melissa Manuel Deshotels ‘81
George Martinez ‘81
Debra Watson ‘81
Peggy Radford Branan ‘83
Mary Sue Sargo ‘85
Lori Sherwood Dykes ‘87
Marie Joseph-Brown ‘88
Deena Dodge Rabalais ‘90
Kim Keith Chatman ‘92
Kathleen Hyzy ‘92
Sherri Pirece Hayes ‘93
Denelle Terrio Rabalais ‘96
Lauren Martello Terrio ‘96
Regina Foster Danner ‘97
Karen Bulanowski Cook ‘01
Savana Thomas ‘06
Susan Wentz ‘11
Gina McNemar ‘13



The following are 2015 Members of Note received after The White Cap 2015:

SISTER STANISLAUS 2015

Paula Favre Brewington ‘69
Carolyn Bartsch ‘70
Patti Lapeyre ‘86

SILVER STAR 2015

America Matus Genzale ‘47
Geneva Dufour Waters ‘48
Shirley Harris Galatas ‘56
Marilyn “Jody” Jacob Klein ‘58
Lynda Vance Montagne ‘58
Rosemary Hathorn Holmes ‘62
Kay Kirking Schmuellen ‘64
Donna Kohnke Fox ‘65
Susan Thibodeaux Grace ‘65
Constance Kennedy Proctor ‘65
Rita Borne Broussard ‘66
Jacqueline Henry Terrell ‘67
Diane Leger Cicero ‘70
Bonnie Hensley-Mowe ‘70
Christine Hurley Carbon ‘71
Chelsa Duhon Kuhnell ‘72
Cherry Thomas Derbes Pfau ‘72

Goodbyes

Continued from page 12

Baptist Hospital and at Sears Roebuck and Company as an Occupational Health Manager. After retiring from working at Sears for 28 years, she held two part-time jobs at J-Kater Catering Service and St. Mary Magdalen Catholic School Ministry Building in Metairie. She was President of the Greater New Orleans Nurses' Association from 1974-76 and implemented the Continuing Education Program through Delgado Community College. She volunteered for the American Red Cross in various capacities, including relief efforts from Hurricane Camille in 1969 and on Mardi Gras Day on Canal Street from 1970 to 1975. She died peacefully in December 2015, at her home in Metairie, at the age of 90.

“With sadness I want to inform you that my mother, **Louella Perry Gumpert '54**, died December 1, 2015. I found an *Alumni News* in a stack of mail and wanted to let you know so you can update her status and remove her from your mailing list. She was a ‘die hard’ fan of Charity. In the attic I found some of her textbooks! I enjoyed looking through them - textbooks have changed! Thank you.”
- Elizabeth Gumpert Mitchell

Beryl Jane Smith '57: “Our classmate Beryl passed away in January. Over the years she held many jobs at Baton Rouge General and Our Lady of the Lake. She worked in mental health units and served as a counselor at Meadowood for mental health and addictive diseases. She had traveled the country doing hospital accreditation, and after retiring worked for the Baton Rouge Convention Bureau. Beryl suffered from a prolonged and debilitating disease and faced it with courage and grace. Charity was always very important to her and she was a great example of a ‘Charity Nurse’. Enclosed is a donation to the Scholarship Fund in her memory.”

- Lucille Capo Castine '57

Sandra Mallory Deaton '63 began her career as a RN at Charity Hospital where she was one of six nurses to open the ICU in the almost 3,000 bed facility. She told interesting stories of the nurses having to steal supplies from other units to treat the ICU patients, due to budget constraints! After leaving Charity she became a homemaker for the next ten years, and won many awards for her talents in crafts and canning at the Washington County Fair. However she was drawn back to her love of nursing. In 1990, Sandra was hired as charge nurse in the Medical Unit at Our Lady of Lourdes Hospital in Lafayette. In 1993, she was promoted to Director of Nursing, where patient care was of the utmost importance to her. She retired from Our Lady of Lourdes in 2005 as the Director of Nursing Operations. She missed her

elderly patients dearly, and chose to continue her service and love for patient care as a volunteer at Lourdes. She also enjoyed volunteering for the Susan G. Komen Runs, digital scrapbooking, traveling abroad with friends, and spending time with her cherished granddaughter Danae. In her last days, her family members were humbled by the many stories, memories and compliments told by the staff members at Our Lady of Lourdes who had worked with Sandra and were now caring for her. She passed away on April 16, 2016, and her family asked that gifts in her memory be made to Charity School of Nursing Alumni Association.

Bonnie Melancon Vezinat Hebert '66: “With heavy heart, I write this to inform our classmates of Bonnie’s passing as a result of a battle with cancer. I had lost touch with Bonnie some years ago and the Alumni Association had no address for her. When some of us began working on our 50-year reunion, I googled her name as I had done numerous times in the past and I found her obituary. I had much difficulty reading through it. Bonnie was born 12/22/1945, and died 1/15/2003 in Eunice, LA.”

- Elaine Ledoux Phares '66

*Those organizing the **Class of '66** have been making phone calls and searching the internet for classmates who drifted away from the Alumni Association over the years. They were saddened to discover that several have passed away. The Class of 1966 bids a fond farewell to all those dear nursing school friends and sends prayers to their families.*

Dixie May McCloskey '72 “passed away at her home in February 2015. She was a member of St. George Church and attended LSU from 1960-1962. She was the proud member of the LSU Tiger Band and Concert Band. Her outstanding nursing was recognized at Our Lady of the Lake Hospital in Baton Rouge, Baptist Medical Center in Jackson, MS, and East Ascension Hospital in Gonzales. During the 80’s she was recognized in the *Who’s Who of America* for her nursing abilities and was quite proud of that honor. Dixie loved her cruises and took six in her life time including a big trip to Alaska.” - Grace Falkenheiner

Jana Susan Wilson Conrad '01 passed away at the age of 57 in March 2016. She was employed as a RN at Ochsner Hospital on Jefferson Highway. She was selected as a “Great 100 Nurses of Louisiana” in 2010. Jana had a passion for medical mission work in Panama, Central America, as evidenced by her 20 years of travel to the region. ❖





Members of Note

Continued from page 14

SILVER STAR 2015 Continued

Donna S. Bordelon '75
Janice Breaux Samson '75
Kimberley Hoppe Keim '78
Nanette Pitre Ledet '78
Gina Broadbridge Suprean '79

BLUE RIBBON 2015

Dolores Trahan Acosta '47
Ola Mae Miller Brown '50
Frances L. Martine '52
Louella Perry Gumpert '54
Mona Robicheaux Rojas '57
Linda Megehee Benson '60
Ethel Faciane Friend '60
Virginia Cage Shemwell '60
Sandra Strauser Clement '61
Antoinette Keating Sykes '61
Phyllis A. Beeching '63
Cam Patti Christensen '63
Madeleine Moreau Crawford '63
Grace Hughes Blanton '65
Jo Ann Pierce Ligon '66
Joan Musacchia Taylor '66
Patty Lyons Finan '67
Sandra Cazenave Graugnard '67
Barbara Irving Lewis '68
Juanita Gauthier Deshotel '69
Ellarea Kerley-Farwell '69
Myra Bascle Porche '69
Josie Bailey Stanga '69
Karin Bartsch Read '70
Elaine Schiller Maguire '71
Myra Diaz Cheramie '73
Juanita Wescoat Graffagnini '73
Donna Vidrine Brown '74
Kathy Granier Herman '74
Margaret Rooney Gray '75
Sharon Keller Louque '75
Joan Webre Rooney '75
Genie LeBlanc Woodring '75
Rebecca Carter Fisher '76
Debra Dumas-Hicks '77
Elaine Schulz Navaille '78
Susan Robbins Kocke '78
Bonny McDonald McGee '79
Kaye Smith Kingsbery '81
Michelle Bel '82
Lynda Bishop Gaber '83
Ellen M. Gautreaux '83
Deborah Soniat '85
Marie Joseph-Brown '88
La Yionn Prater '94
Donna Vandrell Reedy '94
Lucretia Peters '99
Melissa Billiot Piglia '99
Daphne Richardson Valteau '00
Lilibeth Price '05
Robyn Burchfield '10



2015-16 Outstanding Donors

*Gifts of \$100 or more to Restricted
Funds since The White Cap 2015*

Art & Archives

Wilene Dyson Marshall '48
Carole Saladino Radelat '53
Barbara Bonner Folse '68

Alumni Scholarship Fund

Gloria Redmond Ashman '48
Wilene Dyson Marshall '48
Sydney Wood Womack '57
Dr. Maxine Blackmon Jones '59
Roberta Purvis Bartee '66
Barbara Bonner Folse '68
Wilda Taylor '73

Gloria Ashman Scholarship

Gloria Redmond Ashman '48

Sally Cooper Scholarship

Roberta Purvis Bartee '66

Frances Cummings Scholarship

R. Charles Griffith, MD

Saundra Deaton Scholarship

Jerry, Sadie and Misty Deaton
Jay and Fran Garzotto

Sister Camilla Gaudin, D.C. Scholarship

Mary Smith Singletary '49
Saundra Owens Robert '56

Leona Kruebbe and Dr. Gerard Hilbert Scholarship

Eldridge and Catherine Barker
Thomas Hilbert
Patti Lapeyre '86

Jeansonne Scholarship

Kevin Jeansonne, MD

Julia Spratt Scholarship

Barbara Pitre Philipps '61
Roberta Purvis Bartee '66

Ruth Wallace Scholarship
and Ruth Wallace Pin Fund
Dr. Maxine Blackmon Jones '59

Graduation Pins

Geneva Dufour Waters '48
Margaret Oalman Palmisano '49
Betty Wilson Guin '49
Madeline Tolson Markwood '52
Julia Bull Schomaker '52 (*in memory
of Enzell Scott Pennington '51*)
Sydney Wood Womack '57
Joan Arceneaux Levasseur '60
Meralee Marquet Clement '62
Peggy Begnaud Johns '63
Sylvia Obregon Moffitt '64
The Class of 1965
Martha Meaux Genin '65
Roberta Purvis Bartee '66 (*in memory
of Mally Neil Clement '66*)
Barbara Bonner Folse '68
Vivian Larkin Manes '70
Michelle DeLima, faculty (*in memory
of Arthur DeLima*)

Sister Blanche McDonnell Alumni Award

Roberta Purvis Bartee '66

Margaret Palmisano Alumni Award

Margaret Oalman Palmisano '49

CASN Convention Travel Fund

Jan M. Carrio '76

Student Emergency Assistance Fund

Wilene Dyson Marshall '48
Cecile Ginger Andry '58
Barbara Bonner Folse '68
Bonnie Hensley-Mowe '70
Pamela Elias Welsh '70

Student Emergency Assistance Fund: Catastrophic Grants

Joan Bero '63
Patrick Brady '83

White Cap Fund

Carolyn M. Bartsch '70

Multiple Funds

Patti Rouchon Burcham '70
Elaine Schiller Maguire '71
Suzanne Delhomme LeMoine '77



In Memoriam

*We publish the names of those alumni who have passed away as we learn of them, with their graduation year and date of death, if known.
Farewell to these friends:*

Romana Garcia Simmons '40 (10/21/12)
Myrza Aguiard Atchity '42 (2/23/02)
Martha Milligan Larsen '42 (7/7/14)
Audrey Westfall Wright '44 (4/1/13)
Jessie "Penny" Holman Stoer '45 (3/26/03)
Patricia "Patty" Daigle Swafford '45 (12/23/15)
Yvonne Orillion Seneca Foreman '46 (12/20/15)
Maggie Sistrunk Longest '46 (10/28/14)
Mavis Daigle Lusher '46 (3/29/16)
Marie Elizabeth Carpenter Starns '47 (10/16/15)
Lt. Col. Barbara Mandot '49 (12/30/14)

Marian Pertuit Diket '50 (10/7/12)
Juanita Boyd Goodlad '50 (9/9/15)
Janis Pedersen Ladnier '50 (2/25/16)
Bernadette Frey Meyer '50 (3/11/16)
Mary Lee Roger Pittman '50 (11/3/14)
Viola Partaker Hondroulis '51 (12/17/15)
Virginia Callaway Piggott '51 (1/29/16)
Louella Perry Gumpert '54 (12/1/15)
Antoinette Thompson Fulmore '56 (3/17/02)
Eloise Troxclair Gilpatrick '56 (2/25/02)
Valeta Runette Chandler McGowan '56 (10/15/10)
Alice Lillian Roussel '56 (6/22/01)
Olive Grace Terrebone '56 (5/11/10)
Beryl Smith '57 (1/15/16)

Sarah Perricone Mixon '60 (1/15/16)
Suzanne Cooper '62
Saundra Mallory Deaton '63 (4/16/16)
Abbie Weber Gilder '65 (2/21/16)
Susan Champagne Bartimus '66 (6/2/09)
Juanita Colocado Bonde '66 (1/9/16)
Joanne Martinez Brouillette '66 (7/23/99)
April Angle Mesko Parra '66 (6/19/97)
Helen Frick Pradia '66 (7/1/00)
Ava Rickerson Sleigh '66
Bonnie Melancon Vezinat '66 (1/15/2003)
Linda Lissard Benoit '68 (12/24/15)
Catherine Barnes Lambert '69 (2/13/16)

Rita Williams Troescher '74 (11/2/10)
Jana Susan Wilson Conrad '01 (3/20/16)
Jennifer Schuelke Rapp '13 (5/4/16)



From the Executive Director

Continued from page 2

you all, and we will publish your news in the *Alumni News* or next *White Cap*. You can email it, or use a stamp!

Scholarship Interviews

I had the privilege of sitting in with the Alumni Scholarship Committee this May as they interviewed the twenty-six applicants for the scholarships to be awarded in the fall. My hat is really off to **Ursula Allain '65** and **Joycelyn Jeansonne '78**, who do a two-day marathon of interviews every single semester, read all the applications and letters of recommendation, and somehow make the incredibly difficult choices of recipients. It is grueling!

On the other hand, what a joy! I wish all of you had this kind of opportunity to get to know each of these Charity students. Of course they are all academic achievers, but talking to them and reading the faculty's descriptions of their clinical performance - their compassion, initiative, insight and patient advocacy - would really make you proud. The leadership they show in campus activities, and volunteering in the community is inspiring. And when you realize the challenges so many of them face - some as single parents, as caregivers of elderly parents, working to support themselves and often families while juggling classes and clinical rotations. On top of that, many non-traditional students are ineligible for financial aid. It would take your breath away to realize the level of commitment each one has to this goal of becoming a nurse.

And not just any nurse - a "Charity Nurse". They all talk about Charity's wonderful reputation, and many never considered going anywhere else. It is so important for each one of them to live up to the stature of the school and its graduates.

Listening to these interviews I was so thankful to you, alumni, for all that you do for these students. Your donations allow us to offer thousands of dollars in scholarships every semester to these amazing students.

You help in so many other ways, too - with funds for graduation pins and for Student Emergency Assistance, support for student activities and sending students to national conventions. You are also benefitting the students by providing educational opportunities for the Charity faculty.

You may not realize how devastating budget cuts in Louisiana have been to higher education, to Charity School of Nursing and student and faculty programs, as well as to state sponsored scholarships and financial aid. There are fewer and fewer resources available to keep standards high.

Because of your generosity, the Alumni Association can be here to help. You make such a difference! Together we are keeping the promise of Charity alive, her legacy strong, her flame bright. Each of us is a part of the history of Charity. Together we are part of her future, in support of these students who will keep her name great for generations to come.

Thank you for all you do! Please keep in touch. And I hope to see you in September! ❖

Charity T-Shirts at www.teespring.com July 1-21

Offering Charity t-shirts on [teespring.com](http://www.teespring.com) was so successful last year that we are going to do it again! There are two new designs: a lovely pelican design that was used on the Student Handbook in the 1990s, and a "stained glass" pin and lamp image that appeared on Alumni calendars and centerpieces a couple



of years ago. Plus some of last year's designs will be available, with a few tweaks, in case you missed them (or have worn your shirts out because you love wearing them so much!)

Teespring works this way: we open a "campaign" that runs for 21 days. Starting **July 1**, you can go on the teespring website and order your Charity shirt.

On **July 21**, the campaign will end, and the shirts are printed and shipped. You will receive your shirt about two weeks after the campaign ends. It's that easy!

So, in **July**, just go to www.teespring.com, search for "Charity Nursing," or go to our Teespring Store: <https://teespring.com/stores/charity-alumni-nola> (you can go to our website to find a link). Make your choice - or order them all! Prices start at under \$20 depending on the shirt style you choose, plus \$3.99 shipping & handling. Don't miss out!. ❖



At www.CharityAlumni.org you can buy Charity stuff anytime.

Charity afghans, posters, badge holders, and bags are available on our website. You can also order the *Big Charity DVD*. ❖

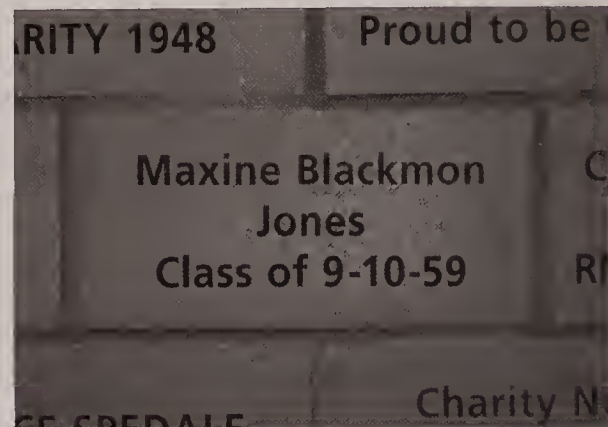
Look What's New!
Charity Tablet Bag



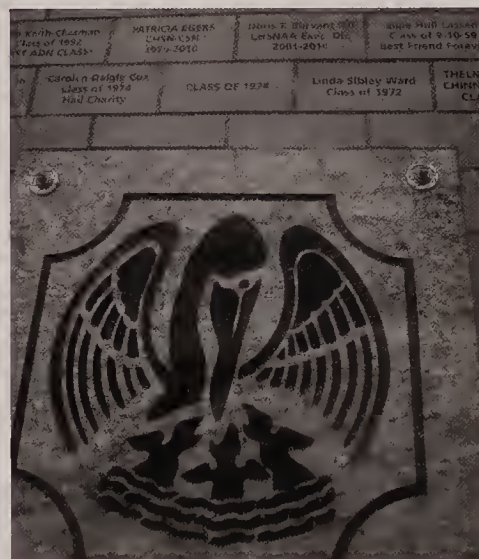
Your heart will always be at Charity. Why not your name?

A Commemorative Brick is a great way to say, "I'm proud to be a Charity graduate." The bricks are mounted on a wall in the courtyard off the Charity School of Nursing lobby.

Funds raised by brick sales provide support for educational enhancements at the school. Go to our website www.CharityAlumni.org to see photos of



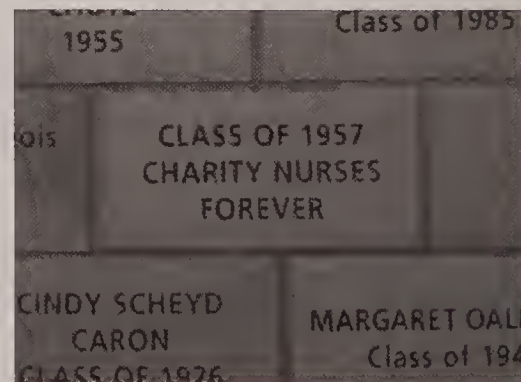
the courtyard and wall.



When you purchase a brick, you (or your gift recipient) will receive a certificate suitable for framing. Order a brick for yourself, as a gift, in memory of a classmate, in honor of that special teacher, or to show your class pride. A brick is a great graduation gift, too!

Maximum size of engraving is three lines with 20 characters per line.

(If you want all caps, only 16 letters will fit per line.) Spaces and punctuation count as characters. All lines will be centered on the bricks. After you decide how you want your brick to read, you can order your brick online at www.CharityAlumni.org, or just mail your request to the Alumni Office with your check for \$100. ❖



Giving Back

By Gloria Redmond Ashman '48

I really decided at about age 15 that I wanted to be a nurse. My grandmother rented rooms to two nurses at that time. They were very kind and talked to me a lot about nursing. They asked the doctor where they worked if I could volunteer over the summer so I could see if nursing was for me. It was a small private hospital of about 22 beds. The doctor told the nurses that I could do whatever they could teach me to do. I learned a lot! When school started I was encouraged to stay and qualify as a practical nurse. But I wanted very much to be a REAL NURSE.



My parents could not afford to send me to college or nursing training. But with World War II, there was a shortage of nurses, and the government created the Cadet Nurse Program to encourage more young women to become nurses. The program paid all the tuition and fees, uniforms were provided, plus room and board. Cadets even got a small stipend each month. I applied, was accepted, and was

sent to Charity Hospital School of Nursing. This was a wonderful gift to me! It made it possible for me to become a Registered Nurse and to make a living.

After I graduated in 1948, I joined the Air Force and had lots of travel and new experiences. I met my husband Bob at Sheppard Air Force Base in Texas. Two years later my son Peter was born and the Air Force released me.

Bob and I had a great life and we moved 24 times over the years. We had five sons and one daughter. I worked through the years, mostly at night so our children always had one of us there. Seems like I became registered everywhere - Florida, Virginia, District of Columbia, Maryland, California and Alaska. I have met so many wonderful people and have always been proud of being a Charity Nurse.

My husband died in 1985. Peter died of pancreatic cancer in 2013. My other children all check on me. Mike lives in my garage apartment and does a lot for me. John works for Comcast in Maryland, Mary keeps books for a tourism business, Paul teaches Culinary Arts at Gulf Coast College, Rob is a lieutenant with the Sheriff's Office. I have 5 granddaughters, two grandsons and two great-granddaughters.

I kept working up until the last few years. I am 87 now, and still do some volunteering. I keep my license current and do continuing education. I haven't stored up much money but I try never to forget all the people who have

helped me along the way. It means a lot to me to be able to contribute to the Alumni Association. I feel that this is something that I owe - to help others get their education.

I am not rich and have to save up months to give, but I will continue as long as I can. I really enjoy hearing from the students who are scholarship recipients and knowing that the money really helps - I only wish it was a lot more.

Best wishes to you all. I won't ever forget those years. I know you all will keep on helping.

Much love,
Gloria



Delinda Hawkins was awarded the Gloria Ashman Scholarship in February 2016. Delinda was Vice-President of the Student Government Association and President of CASN. We know she will be an active member of the alumni now that she graduated this spring. Like Gloria, Delinda is eager to give back for all the opportunities she has had at Charity. We thought she was a perfect fit for the Gloria Ashman Scholarship. Gloria shared with us this letter she received from Delinda:



"Dear Ms. Ashman,

What joy I felt when they called my name for the Gloria Ashman Scholarship at the Promotion and Award Ceremony in February. My heart almost skipped a beat!! Many students were recognized that day for academic achievement, clinical excellence, leadership, character - I am honored to have been included in that selection.

I'm so grateful for this scholarship as I complete my last semester at Charity School of Nursing. The funds will ease the financial burden of graduation and preparing for boards which are in the near future for me.

I greatly appreciate this award and the history tied to this scholarship. It means so much to me to be able to thank you personally, knowing you were a Charity student so many years ago! I know I speak for all the students here at Charity who are so grateful for your support of us. I thank you for your generosity that makes this scholarship possible. You are truly blessed, because you bless so many others! Thank you again,

Delinda Hawkins"

September Reunions



60 Years for Class of '56

At a recent Alumni Association meeting, **Goldie Baker Huguenel**, **Virgis Verret Boudreaux** and **Saundra Owens Robert** decided to organize a 60th Anniversary Celebration for their 1956 classmates. It will coincide with the Alumni Breakfast Meeting on Saturday, September 24. "We will have time together on Friday evening and then attend the breakfast together on Saturday morning." For further information, please contact Saundra at 225-746-0776 or at sor56rn@cox.net ❖

Class of 1966 - Golden Anniversary

On the weekend of the Fall Alumni Breakfast in September, the Class of 1966 will meet to commemorate Fifty Years of history since graduation. You need to be there! Save the dates and make your plans to attend. All the venues are located nearby on Manhattan Blvd in Harvey for your convenience.

September 23, 2016:

Copeland's, 6:00pm - 9:00pm

The Class of '66 will gather and enjoy heavy hors d'oeuvres and cash bar. *(Please note: Checks for the Copeland's event should be made out to **Roberta Barte** and mailed to her at: 1750 St Charles Ave, Apt 433, New Orleans LA 70130. The amount is \$48. Copeland's won't accept checks!)*

September 24, 2016: Alumni Breakfast at The Royal Palm, 9:30am -12:30pm

We will join with other alumni for breakfast, a '60s celebration, and receive our Golden Anniversary Certificates!

Hotel: Holiday Inn Express We have rooms blocked for one or two nights on September 23 and 24, 2016 (mention "Charity 1966 Class" when booking).

If you have not already received details of the planned reunion, please contact us and info will be sent to you. **Lorraine Andry Penrod**, lorraineapenrod@gmail.com, 318-472-9008, or **Elaine Ledoux Phares**, dlphares@att.net, 225-683-5304. ❖

Other Classes?

There are other classes due for reunions in 2016. How about it, **1976, 1986, 1996** and **2006**? Get it together for your own get-together! Not from those classes? You don't have to wait for some special anniversary year to get your friends together - and an Alumni event is the perfect time! If you are interested in organizing a reunion for your class, please contact the Alumni Office at chsnaaoffice@gmail.com. We will be happy to send you a class list with all the contact information we have. ❖

Lost Alumni

The names listed here are some of the graduates for whom we no longer have addresses. If you can help us find any of these lost alumni, please contact the Alumni Office, 504-571-1395 or chsnaaoffice@gmail.com.

1956 - Sixty Years

BETTY GUIDROZ CHESNESS
THELMA GUILLORY FONTENOT
CAROLYN BAXLEY GRIFFIN
SHIRLEY PRUDHOMME HOLT
PATSY JACOBS
REBECCA DICKINSON JOHNSON
ELIZABETH REUMUTH
LANDESMAN
L. JOYCE ERWIN MILLER
SHIRLEY POUNDERS
MARY IRICK SCHWARZ
MARILYN FOSTER TARWATER

1966 - Fifty Years

MONIQUE PARET TEXIER
(Yes, they found all but one of their classmates! Amazing!)

1976 - Forty Years

CONNIE GOULD BORDERS
DR. JAN BRUDER
PATRICIA STEVENS CROME
KRISTIE DAVIS
ANNE DELAUMONT
SARAH GARRETT- GUIDRY
LINDA HOLLOWAY
CORINE DUCOTE HYDE
ROXANNA FABRE LEGACY
MARSHA ODOM LEWIS
BARBARA BREERWOOD LOTA
SUZANNE HEBERT MANINT
YVONNE HERRERA MCKENNA
ELIZABETH HARRISON NIEMI
DENISE BRANDT ORSO
ADRIENNE LACOUR PATRICK
BRENDA HARDEY PORNARAS
KAREN GUNCKEL ROY
PATRICIA SPAGNOLA RUIZ
GWENN MAZZA SATTER
LISA LEGENDRE SMAYDA
WILLIAM THERIOT
THERESA WALACHY
TINA ACOSTA WILD

Continued on page 22



Charity Alumni Breakfast '60s & '6ers PEACE, LOVE & CHARITY NURSING Saturday, Sept. 24

Love beads and bell bottoms, anti-war protests, the civil rights movement, Woodstock, peace signs, tie dye and lava lamps! It was an amazing decade and at this September's Alumni Breakfast...

We're celebrating the 1960s!

Since it's 2016, we're also celebrating the '6ers - any graduates of a class that ends in 6! Reunions are already in the works for the Classes of 1956 (60 Years!) and 1966 (50 Years!) and we're expecting a strong presence from the Class of May 2016! We hope there will be more!*

There will be prizes for the best '60s outfits, so wear your grooviest 1960s get-up, or come as you are... But be sure to wear some flowers in your hair!

Great food & great friends - plus souvenirs, auctions, door prizes, and so much more!

At the Royal Palm

1901 Manhattan Blvd on the Westbank

Registration and cash bar opens at 9:30am,

Breakfast served at 10:30am.

Entree Choices:

Spinach-Artichoke Quiche, or BBQ Shrimp & Grits

*Hey, Graduates of '76, '86, '96 and '06:
If you'd like to organize a reunion for your class,
contact the Alumni Office at chsnaaoffice@gmail.com

Please purchase your Alumni Breakfast tickets by September 16 to guarantee your seating!

Use the form on page 23 and mail your check for \$40 per ticket to: CHSN Alumni Association, 450 South Claiborne Ave, New Orleans, LA 70112
or go to our website:

www.CharityAlumni.org



Directions to the Royal Palm:

- ◆ Take I-10 to the New Orleans Business District, then US-90 Business West across the Crescent City Connection bridge. Continue on US-90 Business West, exiting at Exit 6, Manhattan Blvd.
- ◆ Take a left onto Manhattan Blvd.
Go 1.4 miles.
- ◆ Just past 7th Street, there is a traffic light with a left turn lane. Turn left and enter Fountain Park Centre. The Royal Palm is on the right.
- ◆ Circle to the right and around the back of the building to park.

Lost Alumni

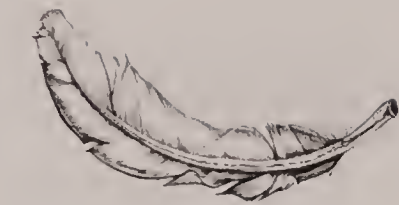
Continued from page 20

1986 -Thirty Years

WANDA FUQUA ALLEN
HEATHER HASTMAN BOPP
ROBERT BROWNING
SHEILA THORNTON BYRD
PATSY SCALLAN CAFFERY
ELLA MCDONALD CORDER
PAMELA BARFIELD CRANE
CONNIE CRONIC
DIANA DESTRY
CATHY ALLEN DOGETT
CHARLOTTE SANDERSON GUERRA
KATHERINE HEBERT HALL
PATRICIA KAVANAUGH HARRIS
CHERYL HEBERT
DENISE MOORE JENKINS
JON JENSEN
DONNA ERNSKY KELLEHER
CRYSTAL BEAR KELLER
DIANE BRAVO KELLER
TANGELA HALL LOGAN
BRENDA LONDRO
MARIA AUXILIADORA LOPEZ
MARY MIRE
ANN PONSETI NOVAK
ELIZABETH DRUEDING OURS
NANETTE BIRDSALL ROCHON
LORI HEBERT SLITHER
DORINDA STANLEY SQUIRES
STEPHEN TEMES
DONNA VREELAND TRAUB
CLAIRE STIRLING WELSH
KATHERINE KOULOUBIS
WILLIAMSON

1996 - Twenty Years

MARION TREGLE ANSARDI
YVETTE PFLUG AUDERER
LORI DUPUY AVERSA
JOY DAVILLIER BAGNERIS
MONA ADAMS BALL
J. KATHERINE RICHARDSON
BARATTINI
MICHELLE DUFRENE BARRETT
SYVLIA BLACK BATSON
TIFFANEY BERGERON
BRENDA MARTINEZ BERNARD
GERALDINE BILLUPS
BARBARA BRANIGHAN
TRACEY CASTLEBERRY BREAUX
KARLA NORRIS BREEDLOVE
ALFREDIA BRIDGES
TAMARA MUNSTERMAN BROOKS
SELINA BROUILLETTE
JANET WELSH BURTON
BRAD CHAMPAGNE
ROBERT COONEY
JENNIELEE CORLIS
DAVID DEGRUY
KEISHIA DEVERNEY



THADDEUS DEVORE
CHERYL LAWTON DINGUS
LESLIE BRIAN DORSKY
STEVE DOYLE
ANGELIA DUPLER
ROBERTA KLASING EVERETT
LOREN FREDERICK
CHRISTEL DAVIS FRENCH
ALYSIA SAMPEY GATLIN
JENINE GODFREY
SANDRA WALDEN GODFREY
CHARLES GRAS
PATRICE BIBBINS GREELY
KIMBERLY FELDNER GROSSNICKLE
MICHELLE HEINE
CYNTHIA DRINKERT HOLMES
SABRINA HOOGVLIETS
MILDRED BINS HUBBARD
DEBRA BOWMAN JACKSON
CHERYL BARCONEY JOHNSON
TARA KENNON
JOANNE LALLA
LOUIS LARMEU, JR
CHARLENE LEVY
HAZEL BAHAM LIVINGSTON
REED LOUPE
DEBORAH PELLEGRIN MASILLA
FAWN FRIEDMAN MAYES
EVA LYNISKY MCCOY
DELLA STEADHAM MCINTYRE
TARA BURAS MILLER
DARNELL LeBLANC MILLON
NUNZIO MOLAY
WILLETTA BRADLEY MOLDEN
DENISE DOUSSAN MOLLERE
HEATHER WELCH MONTELEONE
MARY WEGMANN MORROW
WENDY UMBACK NICHOLSON
CHERI BERNARD PAZOS
AIMEE AITKEN PHILLIPS
NICOLE CHAMPAGNE- REILLY
JENNIFER GRIFFITH ROACH
DIANNE WASHINGTON RODNEY
JAMES ROGERS
MICHELLE HAZARD ROONEY
ROBERT ROUSSEL, JR
DENISE RUSSO
WENDY SMITH
MARGARET RAYNER SOILEAU
MERIAL NORRIS SPEARS
MARIE TASSIN
JANE CHAILLOT TEDESCHI
DONNA WHITELEY TREPAGNIER
CHARLES TURNER
GAYLE GRAVES VARGO
SONJA RUDIGER VON ALMEN
SYLVIA WILLIAMS
BENJAMIN WINGER
CATHY BRITTON YATES

2006 - Ten Years

JENDAYI ADAMS
QUANNA ADDISON
ANITA HARVEY ANSELMO
JOSEPH ARMSTRONG
MELISSA AVERSA-SIMPSON
MICHELLE ST. ROMAIN BARONE
ANGELLE BERGERON
RUTH BERNARD
EDWARD BEZAR
JENNIFER BOBBITT
CATON BOURGEOIS
ERIN BREAUX
BRANDON BROADUS BROMLEY
TRACY MORGAN BYNUM
ROY CARISLE
CHONTEL CARTER
LISA CASSISA
TRENELL CELESTINE
TRICIA CHAMPAGNE
JAYNA DAUTERIVE CLEMENTS
KRISSIE CUSIMANO
RE CUTNO
THASLIA DARDAR
DENISE DUHON DAUZAT
GEORGINA DAVIS
DENISE DEJEAN
MICHELLE DELAUNE
CHARLOTTE DEMERY
JULIA DI GIOVANNI
REBECCA DIODENE
DAVID DOWDEN
CRYSTAL DREWES
CASEY DUPLACHIN
RICARDO ESPINOSA
TRINA FACINE
BRANDI GRZYCH FAVAZA
NIA FLEMING
WILLIAM FLOBERG
KATIE GANIER
JEANNE GAUTREAUX
PATRICIA GEORGE
ANGELA GERACI
DAYNA GIAVOTELLA
FALYN GONZALES
ELISA GUERREO
BROOKLIN GUIDRY
SHANI MALONEY HAGELBERGER
KENDRA HARRIS
JIANPING HE
RANDALL HOLLINS
TONI HOLMES
ANGEL HOULE
SANDRA SILBERNAGEL HUGHES
KATHERINE HURST
SHANNON JACKSON
DIMITRA JOHNSON
HAZEL JONES
KIUANA JONES
JENNIFER KENT
MICHELLE KRAMMER
TRACY LABAT
DOMINIECE LACROIX
CHRISTINA LIRETTE

STEPHANIE LOCANTRO
CASEY LUSCO
JOSHUA MAGAN
TAMARA MANGO
BENJAMIN MARZIALE
TIFFANY MCCALL
MELANIE MCCRARY
KENDRA MEDIAMOLLE
RUSSELL METOYER
SALLY MILLER
STEPHANIE MILLER
NANCY MILLET
MICHELLE MINOR
ANGELA MOORE
NIKEISHIA MOORE
REBECCA MOORE
ZENOBIA MOORE
SHANEL MORRIS
ROSALINA MUJICA
JOHNNIE MULLE'
DIANNA NICKOLAUS
CINDY NUCCIO
INA ORELLANA
GWENDOLYN PEA
LINDSEY PECQUET
RUTH PETTY
RODNEY PIERRE
KIRA POHLEMANN
STEPHANIE POLITO
GWENDOLYN PORCHE
SANDRA PRATHER
RONNICA RAY
TRAVANTE' WILLIAMS RAY
AUTUMN REDDITT
CYNTRALL JAMES RILEY
LAURIE ROBICHEAUX
RICARDO RODRIQUEZ
EMILY ROONEY
BRANDI ROTH
CASEY ROY
CYNTHIA RUNNELS
SAMANTHA SANCHEZ
LACEY SANDERS
JACOB SCHRIEFFER
TIPHANY SEXTON
JOSEPH SIMS
ERNEST SMITH
KIANTE STAMPS
ANNA STEWART
MALINDANN SYLVE
KACI THIBODEAUX
TED THOMAS
MELANIE THOMPSON
SCHYLER TRAHAN
KEIKO UEHARA
JESSICA PULKOWSKI
UMBDENSTOCK
PATRICE VEAL
MARGO VIAL
ALICA WALKER
CICELY WASHINGTON
WENDY WEBB
LESLEY TRABEAUX WININGER
CHONG YUN ❖

You can use this form...

Or visit our website: www.CharityAlumni.org

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY!

Name: _____ Class: _____
First name Maiden (or Graduation name if different from current name) Last name

Street Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ E-Mail: _____

☐ I Want to Attend the Alumni Breakfast on Sept. 24



Reserve for me: How many? _____ Breakfasts @\$40 each...\$ _____

Please choose your entree(s):

_____ BBQ Shrimp & Grits, or _____ Spinach-Artichoke Quiche

Bringing a Guest? Please give us the name for their nametag:

Please make your reservation by September 16 to guarantee your seating!

☐ I Want to pay my Annual Membership Dues:

- ☐ \$15 Regular Membership
- ☐ \$25 Blue Ribbon Membership*
- ☐ \$50 Silver Star Membership*
- ☐ \$100 Sister Stanislaus Membership*

or ☐ Sustaining Membership: a one-time gift of \$500 (and never pay dues again).*

*Members at these levels please select your choice of:

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Personalized CHSNAA pocket calendar | <input type="checkbox"/> Charity Stylus Pen |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Charity Luggage tag | <input type="checkbox"/> Vintage postcard of the old Charity Dorm |

☐ I Want to make a Donation to the:

| | |
|--|----------|
| Art & Archives Preservation Fund..... | \$ _____ |
| CASN Convention Travel Fund | \$ _____ |
| Faculty Development Fund..... | \$ _____ |
| Scholarship Fund..... | \$ _____ |
| Student Emergency Assistance Fund..... | \$ _____ |
| Other: _____ | \$ _____ |

☐ I Want to Volunteer. Please contact me when volunteers are needed.

Mail this form with your check to: CHSN Alumni Association,
Delgado Charity School of Nursing, 450 S. Claiborne Ave, New Orleans, LA 70112



Charity Hospital School of Nursing
ALUMNI ASSOCIATION
Delgado Charity School of Nursing
450 South Claiborne Avenue
New Orleans, Louisiana 70112

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

www.CharityAlumni.org chснаaoffice@gmail.com Facebook: Charity Alumni NOLA

The White Cap - Spring 2016 INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

**Silent Auction of
Saints Pre-Season tickets.....Page 2**

**Photos from the
Spring Luncheon.....Page 3**

Graduation AwardsPage 9

**Peace, Love & Charity Nursing:
September Alumni Breakfast
Celebrates the 1960s.....Page 21**

**Order tickets and renew your
membership.....Page 23**

Plus...

**Alumni Letters, School News,
and so much more!**

What is that number after my name?

The number immediately after your last name on your mailing label indicates the year your membership expires. For example, "Jane Jones 2016" means your membership expires at the end of 2016. You are current, but you may want to consider renewing your membership now for 2017.

If your label has a "0" or a year earlier than 2016 (such as "2010"), you are overdue! Please join or renew your membership now.

If the numbers on your label are 9999, 8888 or 7777, you are in a specialized membership category (Lifetime, Sustaining or Friend) and you do NOT need to renew your membership, but we do appreciate your donations!

If you have any questions about your membership, call or email the Alumni office. ❖



Charity Hospital School of Nursing & Charity School of Nursing

Alumni News

Fall-Winter 2016

Charity School of Nursing, 450 South Claiborne Avenue, New Orleans, Louisiana 70112

Alumni Office 504-571-1395 chsnaaoffice@gmail.com www.CharityAlumni.org Facebook: Charity Alumni NOLA

From the President

By Bryan J. Camus '12

Sooo... Is it just me or did this last election cycle make anyone else feel like they need a long, hot shower? With lots of scrubbing? And Granny's homemade lye soap? I appreciate passion but many of the commercials I was seeing on TV at the dinner hour should have carried enteric precautions! Fortunately, I realized on my Sunday bike ride that (1) I survived a Charity education (mostly) intact, (2) I am blessed to be able to work in one of the greatest professions there is, and (3) I associate with inspiring, dedicated people every day. It's all about perspective so I want to get back to doing what Charity nurses do best!

A Year of Good News

Looking over the accomplishments of this past year, I just have to say THANK YOU to all of you alumni and friends that made so much possible! We presented almost \$17,000 in scholarships and awards to Charity students this year. We served lunch to almost 300 graduating seniors on their Professional Issues Days and encouraged them to get involved in this incredible organization.

We provided important training for our faculty to help them be more effective in the rapidly evolving world of nursing education. We provided emergency assistance to students to keep them in school when flooding or family crises threatened their ability to stay in school.

We sent students to the New Orleans District Nurses Association Student Nurse Night to get them involved early in their professional organization. We helped CASN students go to their national student nurse convention to learn about leadership and get a perspective on nursing with nursing students from across the country.

We purchased books for the library to help students with critical thinking. (The *Think Like a Nurse* books were originally suggested by one of our terrific scholarship winners, Sister Miriam Martinez-Rivera because that book has helped her succeed at Charity.)

Making It Happen

If I seem to be saying WE a lot, it's because that's the



President Bryan Camus '12 and Gloria Asprion '45 at the Alumni Breakfast in September

most important word I can say. You and me and the Board of Directors and the thousands of graduates who keep in touch and show their support, and our friends who also believe so much in what we do. WE did this. We did this with our membership dues and donations and our recognition of all that Charity meant to us - and will mean to so many in the future. And WE can be really proud.

Having Fun

We also have a really great time! Our Luncheons and Breakfasts are the BEST! In a city that prides itself on a wide diversity of great entertainment, a Saturday morning with this gang, coming from so many places and representing so many generations of Charity nurses, is beyond comparison. We do have fun!

Sooo... It's time to turn off the news, ignore the pundits, and get back to what's important: ensuring that the spirit of Charity and her alumni lives on!

Best wishes for the New Year - for you and your families, for our country, and for peace on earth. I hope to see all of you at our Spring Luncheon in March. And for my musical reference, I'll slightly revise Gloria Gaynor's 1978 Grammy Song of the Year: We Will Survive! ❖

From the Exec Director

By Lista Hank '97

This *Alumni News* is the fattest one we've ever printed! It's full of all sorts of wonderful news about alumni and the exciting things going on at the school. We hope you enjoy this really BIG issue!

From Big to Small

To paraphrase Margaret Mead, it's usually a small group of committed people that makes things happen. It's true about changing the world, and even more true about organizations like the Alumni Association.

Our "small group of people" is our Board of Directors and our Advisory Committee. I want to thank all of them for their commitment and hard work. It's not a small thing to always be there for alumni events, to work registration and sell souvenirs and raffle tickets, to serve at Senior Lunch and conduct scholarship interviews, to show up for our almost monthly Board Meetings, and be tasked with making decisions that affect not only the alumni but students as well, to respond to my many emails seeking advice and expedited votes.

Everyone is pretty sick of elections right now, but this is one election you can feel very good about every time. The people who run for these offices are the ones who step up every time for the work that needs to be done. Some bring institutional memory and some bring new perspectives. Some keep us centered, some push exuberantly for action. Every one of them brings a deep respect and love for Charity and all she represents: history, excellence and caring.

So please use the ballot on page 26 to cast your vote. You can enclose it with anything else you mail to us, like your Luncheon registration or membership form. It's a small thing, but it means a lot.

Reunions Don't Just Happen

We've seen the "small group" phenomenon again and again with class reunions. One person steps forward to say, "I want my class to have a reunion," and it grows from there. She reaches out to a friend, he reaches out to another – now there's a committee. One works the phone, another combs the internet for the missing, they choose a place for a cocktail party, compose a letter to the class.

One by one, classmates get in touch - ten, twenty-five, or fifty years have gone by, but it's as though you never lost track of each other. Friends fly in from across the country. The memories are so fresh, the laughter so infectious. The magic of a reunion is hard to describe, but no one ever regrets the time and the effort - or that first impulse to make it happen.

You can be the one to make it happen for your class. The Alumni Association can help. We will provide you with your class list with all the contact information we

have. If you don't know where to start, we can steer you. It will take a lot of your time, it can be a lot of work. But everyone who has ever organized a Charity class reunion will tell you – it is so worth it. So, step on up!

Finally, I want to thank the "Big Group of People" - you, the alumni, all of you who allow us to do everything we do through your support and generous gifts! You make it happen every day, with donations big and small, and with your continuing commitment to Charity. We couldn't do it without YOU - and that's a BIG thing! ❖

Dean's Report

By Cheryl E. Myers, PhD, RN

Executive Dean CSN Campus/Dean of Nursing

As 2016 draws to a close, the faculty, staff and students continue to work diligently to uphold the Charity tradition of excellence in nursing. As the Class of December 2016 prepares to complete their clinical experience and final exams, they are anxiously awaiting the moment they will walk across the stage and officially become Charity graduates. Thanks to the generous donations from many alumni, over \$8,000 in scholarships and pin awards were distributed this fall to deserving students.

Enrollment in the program continues to be strong. In 2015, the 269 graduates from Charity represented 35% of the associate degree graduates in the State of Louisiana and 52.2% of the graduates in the Greater New Orleans area. To insure our program remains a quality educational program, we are busily preparing for our Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing (ACEN) accreditation site visit in February 2017. During their visit, a public comment session will be held for the visitors to get feedback on our program. We would love for alumni to attend – the exact date and time will be published on our website at

<http://www.dcc.edu/academics/charity-school-nursing/default.aspx>.

Thank you for your support of our students. Through your generosity, students will be able to travel to the National Student Nurses Association conference in the spring, enjoy Senior Lunch on their Professional Issues Seminar day and attend the New Orleans District Nurses Association Student Nurse banquet. Additionally, students will have the opportunity to hone their clinical decision-making skills through the use of books purchased for the library through funding from the Alumni Association. And a HUGE thank you for establishing two endowed scholarships for nursing that will assist nursing students to achieve their goal of being a Charity graduate for years to come!

Wishing you a safe and peaceful holiday season! ❖

Peace, Love & Charity Nursing

The Charity Alumni were feelin' very groovy this September as we stepped back into the '60s for the Fall Alumni Breakfast! Tie dye and peace signs were the order of the day, and there was so much excitement about this event that over 180 people were there! If we weren't exactly dancing in the streets, we did believe in magic!

President **Bryan Camus '12** welcomed all the alumni and guests to the Royal Palm. He kept us entertained - and jogged some great memories - with fun and interesting facts about the 1960s. Did you remember that the Pill was approved by the FDA in 1960? Or that the movie *2001* was released in 1968? It was set 33 years in the future - now it's 16 years in the past. (Hey, that gives us a cool, outer-space theme idea for the Spring Luncheon! *See page 27.*)

Really Big Reunions

Two big reunions marked our '60s and '6ers theme. The **Class of 1956** celebrated their 60-Year Anniversary together with a fabulous turnout of thirteen classmates! The **Class of 1966** had an amazing 37 class members there for their 50-Year celebration of fun and friendship! Both classes brought friends and family members - who we are always welcome at our events.

Special Guests

Vice-Chancellor of Delgado Community College, **Dr. Stanton McNeely, III**, was there to congratulate the alumni and he said how proud he is to be associated with Charity. He told us that the School of Nursing is a Center of Excellence.

Dr. Cheryl Myers, Executive Dean of the School of Nursing, said she was honored to be with the greatest nurses from around the country and the world, and thanked the Alumni for all their support of the students. (You can read her report on page 2.)

Roll Call of Classes

Secretary **Joycelyn Jeansonne '78** joined Bryan for the roll call of classes starting with our amazing →



Top to bottom, left to right: Tori Harris Chatman '07, Patricia Dufrene '85, Jaime Crawford Davlin and Kitty Crawford '66; Cheri Aucoin '16, Vicky Seghers '16, Dr. Cheryl Myers and Dr. Stanton McNeely; Claudia Gordon '68 and Joycelyn Jeansonne '78; Marion Coleman '77, Laura Bolden Miller '82, Cynthia Sartin '77 and (seated) Marie Beaulieu '46.

Top to bottom, left to right: students Rolanda Martinez, Chantee Turner, Stephanie Burke, Dr. Myers, Brooke Troxclair, Heidi Fleckinger and Amy Larrieu; Diane Leger Cicero '70, Priscilla Leger Simon '72 and Vivian Manes '70; Doris Burvant '60 and Jeanette Robinson '80; Charlene Persich '74 and Emily Ovalle '13; Grooviest Costume contest.



1940s alums - **Elizabeth Knight Vanderwall '42**, **Gloria Armagnac Asprion '45**, **Marie Gaudet Beaulieu '46** and **Margaret Oalman Palmisano '49** - and going right up to three graduates from the Spring of 2016! **Cheri Aucoin '16**, who received the Margaret Palmisano Alumni Award at the Spring graduation, and **Vicky Seghers '16**, who received the Award of Distinction, were joined by their classmate **Megan Fonseca**. It was great to see such a glorious span of Charity generations together!

Congratulations also go to the Class of 1962 with ten in attendance, 1968 with eight in attendance, and 1976 with six. What a great show of school spirit!

In the Groove

The Grooviest Costume contest was a tough call because so many alumni came in really spectacular 1960s (and even some 50s) outfits and accessories. High praise to all of you for getting into the spirit! **Claudia Gordon '68** and **Cynthia Sartin '77** were the winners and their prizes were humongous, very groovy, lava lights!

Auction & Drawings

An antique CHSN cape donated by **Yvonne Ellender Hawthorne '66** was awarded to **Patty Dufrene '85** with a bid of \$250. The 50/50 drawing netted \$281 for **Marie Beaulieu '46**. The raffle of a papier-mache Charity Pin Plaque was won by **Bethany Arrau '67**.

It was a day of joy and silliness, of fringed vests and pedal pushers, of dear old friends and happy new ones. We are looking forward to seeing everyone



again this spring at the **Alumni Luncheon** (details on page 27).

With this level of enthusiasm we just *might* be thinking about *Seventies and Sevens* for the 2017 Fall Breakfast next September... Start planning those reunions now, but in the meantime, we hope to see you all at the **2017 Spring Alumni Luncheon on March 25** - and

that's gonna be *Outta This World!* ❖

You can see lots more pictures from the Breakfast, and pictures from all our alumni events on our Photo Share Site:

<https://charityalumni.shutterfly.com/>

(Type this address into your search engine; you can't get to the site with a web search.)



Golden Girls of 1966

By Lynn Burton Rosenblatt '66

The Class of '66 celebrated its 50th Anniversary Reunion this September. Thirty-five classmates came together to renew acquaintances and share our lifetime experiences as Charity graduates. Many of us had not seen each other since graduation; a few had maintained contact with roommates and old friends. No matter how long the time or distance, the commonality of the Class of 1966 could not be ignored.

We had graduated in a changing society. We were just embarking on our educations and taking our first steps into adulthood when JFK was shot November 1963; the Civil Rights Act was enacted in 1964; the Vietnam War was the most debated topic of worldwide interest; and

achieved and lives well lived. Many went on to higher education; some left nursing for other challenges, but most combined their careers with that of wives and mothers. Some have faith-based ministries and others had careers apart from nursing, but everyone had an interesting story to tell.

The reunion weekend actually started on the evening of Friday, September 23, with a fabulous New Orleans-style buffet at Copeland's on the West Bank. **Bobbie Barte** had made miniature Charity nursing caps for each of us, complete with the senior black ribbon, and we each received a Nightingale Pledge poster.

On the morning of Saturday, September 24, we attended the Alumni Breakfast, where we each received a "Golden Anniversary" Certificate from the Alumni Association.

Few of us might have initially recognized the others

without the help of the yearbook photos on our nametags; but we forgot the gray hair, the extra pounds and the wrinkles as we reminisced. We had grown up and flourished. The talk was as much about our careers as it was about our husbands and children. Some arrived with husbands and daughters. The husband of **Joanne Martinez Brouillette** (who



Medicare redefined healthcare in the US. All of these issues would set the tone for nursing and many of our careers as they developed.

We had come to Charity from Louisiana, Florida, Tennessee and Alabama; one of our classmates was actually from Belgium. After graduation some would stay on in New Orleans while others began their careers in their hometowns across Louisiana. There were the adventurous ones who entered the military and those who moved away for the opportunities elsewhere. Several were married at graduation and many married shortly thereafter.

Lives Well Lived

For all of us, no matter where life had taken us or what diversities we had endured, the common denominator was our Charity diploma that opened the doors to careers well

had died at age 53) came to show her old classmates how much her Charity education had meant to her.

Unfortunately, several of our friends have passed away; many with cancer. Their memories live on in a tribute booklet put together by **Lorraine Andry Penrod**. Lorraine was tenacious in locating our classmates, and managed to account for every member of the class except **Monique Paret Texier**, whose last whereabouts were Paris.

Carolyn Brunell Cunningham flew in from California to be the graduate from the longest distance. **Angie Foster Pruner**, **Nikki Rivet Vandergrinten** and **Lynn Burton Rosenblatt**, who all live in the Atlanta area, reunited to make the drive to New Orleans. Several of the Florida delegation came together; others came from all over the bayous. Some never left New Orleans or →

its suburbs (if we don't count the disruption of Katrina). And let's not forget **Doris Burvant '60** who was on the faculty during our years at CHSN and, joining us for our reunion, looked as if time had stood still!

We had entered nursing at a time of professional upheaval; diploma schools would gradually evolve into associate degree programs and CHSN was no different. Men entered the profession; the military life became attractive to several of our class.

Many of us went on for bachelor degrees in a variety of fields that showed what a diverse lot we really were. No matter what our interest or the extent of our educations, we were all successful professionals. Many are already retired and some are still pursuing the expanded roles of a modern-day nurse. No matter where we had been or where we currently are, our lives were intertwined in mysterious ways by our Charity experience.

Undoubtedly we were at the beginning of dynamic change and, despite low wages and long hours, we carried nursing ahead in leaps and bounds, accomplishing things that previous classes would have thought impossible. As we discussed the road that Charity had led us on and the avenues that we are now navigating, it is our right to claim the Class of '66 Reunion an undeniable success!

Our reunion would not have happened without the organizational efforts of **Lorraine Andry Penrod**, **Roberta Purvis Bartee**, **Elaine Ledoux Phares** and **Betty Matranga MacDonald**. Lorraine was the driver in contacting classmates and creating the memorial booklet; Elaine saw to the printing of a keepsake journal; Bobbie handled the Copeland's reservations and Betty tied up the loose ends. The Alumni Office helped by providing the contact information they had and with mailing labels. Each of them deserve our heartfelt thanks for an enormous undertaking and a job well done.

In closing, may we all be blessed with good health and renewed friendships!

Planning the '66 Reunion

By Lorraine Andry Penrod '66

This reunion started for me as I read the article in last year's *White Cap* about the 50th reunion for the Class of 1965. I realized this year would be our turn and I began to get excited about the thought. I reminisced about my three extraordinary years as a student at Charity.



Left to right: 1966 reunion planners Roberta Bartee, Lorraine Penrod, Elaine Phares and Betty MacDonald with Doris Burvant '60 at Copeland's.

I was so surprised when I found out I was admitted to Charity because I had not been a very good high school student! At Charity, I studied very hard because I was afraid I wouldn't make it. I did make it, and even though I studied, I know I would never have made it on my power – it was God's plan all along.

It was His plan for all of us, from the top graduate, to the bottom, each time a hand was held for comfort. We were some of the BEST educated and trained nurses ever with the help of Sister Blanche. So I wanted to say, "Thank You, Charity!" in every way I could.

I went to work right after receiving a copy of the class list from the Alumni Office. A small group of classmates stepped forward to plan the reunion but we were not very organized at first, trying to decide who will do what and when. I decided it was really important to try and locate classmates we had no contact information for, and I wanted to make a memorial book about our friends who had died. I started by trying to find the best sources of information about lost graduates.

This literally led to hundreds of phone calls, letters, and emails. This is when the reunion really began for me, with all these communications to our classmates and their families. It was so awesome to find someone, then talk like we had never been apart and were lifelong friends. I'm sure that was because we all had one thing in common: our love for Charity.

This message to the Class of 1966 is all about showing my appreciation to a fabulous group of people. Many thanks to all who participated in the planning process and to all who attended the Fall event. It was such a gift to see all of you. This was one of the most meaningful experiences of my life.

I wish the coming years for all of you may be filled with peace, love and happiness! ❖



Diamond Jubilee

By Sandra Owens Robert '56

The Class of 1956 celebrated our 60-Year Anniversary this September. Some of us traveled great distances to join in the fun. We came from Louisiana, Mississippi and Alabama, and the states of California, Colorado and Georgia were represented.

The Energizer Bunny had nothing on us! Friday evening we were laughing, talking, remembering our student days, eating, drinking and posing for pictures. Saturday morning we were up bright and early having a pre-breakfast repast at the hotel before heading across the

Above: The Class of 1956 receives their Diamond Anniversary Certificates. Below: Sandra Owens Robert '56 and Sister Miriam Rivera-Martinez.



street to join in the official Alumni Breakfast at the Royal Palm.

We enjoyed the company of thirteen 1956 Charity graduates, two husbands, five daughters, two sons, one daughter-in-law and a grandson. We received our Diamond Anniversary Certificates from the Alumni Association. They were so beautiful and a lovely keepsake.

We were so delighted to meet **Sister Miriam Rivera-Martinez**, this semester's recipient of the **Sister Camilla Gaudin Scholarship**. We pooled our money to make a donation of \$250 to the scholarship fund in honor of our beloved Sister Camilla.

It was a weekend for happy recollections of those sweet Charity days, and for making wonderful new memories. Pretty good for a group of octogenarians! ❖

Reunion Plans for 2017

Class of 1967: 50th Reunion

Plans are to celebrate the Fifty-Year Anniversary along with the Alumni Spring Luncheon on the weekend of March 25, 2017. Please contact **Beverly Chapoton** at 504-469-1942 or email her at missbevno@aol.com.

Class of 1997: Twenty-Year Reunion

Please contact **Lista Hank** at hanklista@gmail.com.

Class of 2007: Ten-Year Reunion

Planning for September of 2017, to be coordinated with the Fall Alumni Breakfast (this date has not yet been set). Please contact **Tori Harris Chatman** at 504-339-8674 or email her at toriharris@gmail.com.

Plan a reunion for your class!

The Alumni Office can provide a class list, mailing labels and other assistance. Take the first step! ❖

Two Endowments Mean These Scholarships Will Continue Forever

The Charity Alumni Association is partnering with **Delgado Community College** to establish two Charity Alumni Scholarship Endowments. The Alumni Association has provided \$25,000 for these two endowed scholarship funds dedicated to nursing students at Charity School of Nursing. The Louisiana Board of Regents Support Fund, which has a specific scholarship matching program for endowed scholarships for nursing, will provide matching funds for the two endowments.

The two endowed scholarships will be the **Leona Kruebbe Hilbert and Dr. Gerard Hilbert Charity Alumni Scholarship** and the **Hugh and Maria Garcia Roach Charity Alumni Scholarship**.

The Alumni Association contribution comes from donations already made to the Association for the two scholarship funds. The Board of Regents program offers to match a minimum gift of \$10,000 to establish endowed scholarships for nursing students. The Roach Fund already had \$15,000 in place to qualify for the match. The Hilbert Family raised an additional \$3,500 to qualify for the match.

The two endowments will ensure that both these scholarships will continue indefinitely into the future, because only interest and dividends will be distributed in scholarships, and the core contribution will be kept intact. Investments by Delgado Community College will provide a higher yield than the Alumni Association could achieve alone, and the same funds, if administered by the Alumni Association, would ultimately be completely spent down on the scholarships.

The two scholarships funded by these endowments will be administered by the Delgado Office of Financial Aid. Though the students will have the additional step of applying through the college, their applications will continue to be evaluated by the Alumni Association's Scholarship Committee.

Hilbert Scholarship

Leona Kruebbe graduated from Charity Hospital School of Nursing in 1946. She later served as an Assistant Instructor in Nursing Arts at Charity. Upon her death in November 2013, her family created the Leona Kruebbe Hilbert Scholarship at Charity School of Nursing in her honor. When Leona's husband **Dr. Gerard Hilbert** died a short time later, his name was



added to the scholarship.

The Hilbert Scholarship seeks to encourage nursing students who are interested in geriatrics or the care and treatment of patients with Alzheimer's Disease. "We hope that these funds can help aging patients have as comfortable a life as our parents did," says Thomas Hilbert.

"We are so grateful for this opportunity to maintain this scholarship in memory of our parents forever," says Dr. Paul Hilbert. "The whole family really feels the connection with Charity School of Nursing."

Roach Scholarship

Maria Garcia was born in Mexico, the daughter of a doctor and civil rights activist. Maria graduated from Charity Hospital School of Nursing in 1938 and trained as a Nurse Anesthetist at Charity Hospital. She went on to teach anesthesia to medical students and physicians at Tulane University School of Medicine. She earned her private pilot license in 1938 at the New Orleans Municipal Airport, and in World War II joined the Army Air Corps Medical Air Evacuation system and received her military pilot wings. She served in North Africa, Asia and Europe as a nurse and relief pilot and later became an instructor in air evacuation. A decorated Army Air Corps officer, Maria continued to serve her country in the State Department after the war.



Maria's husband **Hugh Roach** was a British Foreign Service officer. He later became a United Nations representative for Canada. When Hugh died, Maria decided to create a scholarship in both their names at Charity School of Nursing.

Consider An Endowment

Have you ever thought about establishing your own endowment for Charity nursing students? Additional matching funds are available from the Louisiana Board of Regents Support Fund. Ten thousand dollars may seem like a lot of money, but this is a unique opportunity to have your endowment donation matched. If you are interested in finding out more about establishing an endowed fund in your name or in memory of a loved one, please contact the Charity Alumni Office. ♦

Sister Stanislaus Memorial Oak

The gracious old oak tree behind the Charity School of Nursing Education Building has been designated as a member of the Louisiana Live Oak Society of the Louisiana Garden Club Federation and named the **Sister Stanislaus Memorial Oak**.

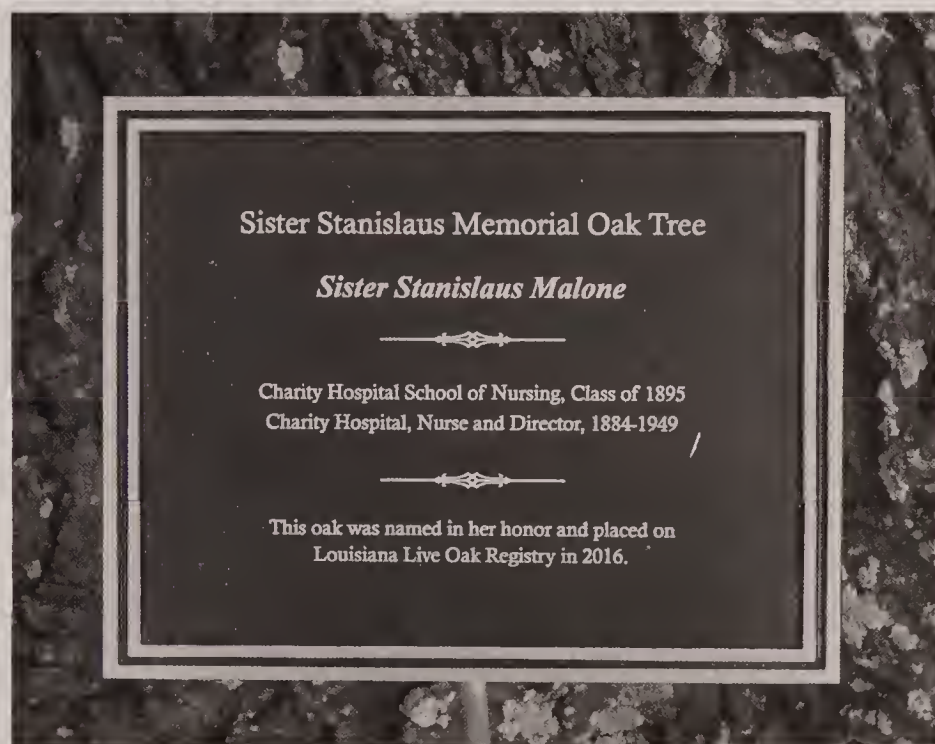
The live oak tree symbolizes strength, stability, and steadfastness, which makes it an especially appropriate memorial to Sister Stanislaus, known as the “Winged Angel of New Orleans.”

Sister Stanislaus Malone was a Daughter of Charity of Saint Vincent de Paul, an order of nuns dedicated to serving the poor and outcast. She was sent to New Orleans by her order to Charity Hospital in 1884. When the School of Nursing was established to provide more professional training for Charity’s nurses, Sister Stanislaus was one of the first graduates in 1895.

65 Years of Service

Sister Stanislaus spent sixty-five years at Charity Hospital, serving as Superior of the Daughters of Charity community at the hospital for thirty-two years, and directing the hospital divisions managed by the Sisters. She championed the development of educational opportunities for nurses, and was instrumental in establishing Charity’s School of Anesthesia in 1916. She was tireless in raising money to support the always underfunded Charity Hospital, both from public and private sources. She personally convinced President Franklin Roosevelt to fund the construction of Big Charity, opened in 1939, as part of the Works Progress Administration program.

Sister Stanislaus was widely respected for her abilities as a nurse and administrator, but also beloved for the genuine caring and respect she showed to all people.



In 1945, Sister Stanislaus received the *Times-Picayune* Loving Cup, an award for outstanding civic and humanitarian service. She passed away in 1949 at Charity Hospital, and the entire city mourned.

Age of Tree Unknown

The Louisiana Garden Foundation presented a certificate to the School of Nursing and a plaque, purchased with a gift from **Margaret Palmisano '49**, has been installed at the base of the tree. The Sister Stanislaus Memorial Oak is listed on the Live Oak Society registry on the Louisiana Garden Foundation website: www.lgcfinc.org/live-oak-society, #8095.

We don’t know the age of this stalwart oak. If anyone has memories that might help us gauge how long the tree has stood behind the school, please let us know. ❖

Alumni Notes

Margaret Robichaux Elliott '49 (*Punta Gorda, FL*):

"I started nursing school in August 1946 at the age of 16. Tuition for the entire program was \$72 and covered all three years of training, uniforms, room and board. We were expected to work in addition to attending classes and you were paid \$10 a month after six months of training. As we moved through training, our pay increased to \$20 a month. Working the night shift was very challenging when you had to be in classes during the day.

I finished my coursework and fulfilled all of my work requirements in June of 1949. I went to work in Kansas and was the head nurse at a small hospital for a year. I returned to New Orleans and was a staff nurse on a male urology ward at Charity. I was promoted to head nurse on a female orthopedics unit and was paid \$235 a month. I was in this position for four years. I met my future husband, who was an intern, and after we were married, we moved to Ohio. We had six children and my nursing career was limited to volunteering for the Red Cross Blood Bank and assisting in my husband's medical practice. I have wonderful memories of Charity Hospital, the sisters that taught us, and of my classmates. I loved being a nurse and am so grateful for the education I received." *Margaret donated \$500 to the Alumni Scholarship Fund earlier this year, and the Margaret Robichaux Elliott Scholarship was awarded to Level 4 student Kristen Guilbeau in September.*



Nadene Lanzl Hobbs Veltman '56 (*Las Vegas, NV*):

"I started with the Class of '55, but took a detour. Billie Burson was my first roommate in the Class of '55 and I am sorry to learn that she just passed away. I loved her so much. I had several roommates after we graduated in '56: **Sandra Owens, Joan Anderson, Rosemary Schnell.** Rosemary went on to be an Obstetrics nurse. I keep her photograph on my wall. She was so special. She could make a dress from the most complicated pattern. She bought a Volkswagen beetle - the rest of us took the bus. She was precious and I am sure that she still is.

I was such a little country bumpkin when I got to Charity. I had never been away from home, never been inside of a hospital and had never seen a nun! Boy, did I have things to learn. On my first day, I walked into the

lobby and then to the elevator to go to the 14th floor. Sister Pauline greeted me. 'What's your name?' she asked. 'Nadene Lanzl,' I stammered as I looked at her hat in amazement. 'Are you glad to be here?' she continued. 'Yes, ma'am,' I replied. 'Don't say *yes ma'am* to me,' she said sternly. 'What do I ssssaay?' 'Yes, Sister,' she replied. I had never seen a *sister* like that and I prayed I would never run into her again. It was not to be. A Baptist girl from South Florida had so much to learn. Yet, I am so grateful. It saved my life and made me the person that I am.

I worked as a RN for 47 years. Because of Charity Hospital training, I got the top job wherever I worked. Just because Charity was the best. We saw it all and we learned so much. The last fifteen years I was a Hospital Administrator. I was even responsible for the Medical Staff. How about that! I owe it all to Charity.

I am now 81 and I have just been given the job of advising a client of the type of medical facilities needed for a new village being designed to get 20,000 people out of homelessness. It's a new concept. They will have a home on the day they arrive and no longer be homeless. The homes are constructed out of a brand new material that is beautiful and can be built in four days. We will grow grass-fed beef, aquaponic fish and vegetables. There will be jobs of many kinds for the residents. My husband is doing the Master Plan. So I have to hang in there a little longer to see this project take place. I am very healthy, and God is so good. I am very busy always.



Charity Hospital was an answer to my fervent prayer when I was 17. It exceeded all my expectations. I have been grateful every day."

Marjorie DeVillier Magtira '58 (*Miami, FL*): "It's always a pleasure to receive my copy of the *White Cap*, especially when there is news re the 8-31-58 class. I received the Honor Pin that year and I treasure that honor. I loved my three years in nursing school and my nursing education has meant the world to me in those years since graduation. I have not lived nearby in those many years, so I have not been fortunate enough to participate in the reunions, breakfasts, etc., but I do try to keep up with what's happening. In 1963, I lived in Lafayette, LA, got married and moved to Lexington, KY. In 1964, we moved to Miami. The marriage didn't survive, but I →

got lucky and had four children. I now have seven grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. I worked those years after my divorce in various hospitals and medical areas and spent the last eighteen years in critical care nursing. It's been a wonderful career. I retired in January 1999. I have been able to travel every continent, and keep busy with activities. I just completed six years as President of a senior center group and am active in a retired nurse group here. No life is without ups and downs, but I have been very lucky. I treasure my memories of my years at Charity. If I could I would be at every activity because I think Charity Hospital School of Nursing was the greatest and I know Delgado Charity School of Nursing must be the greatest, too!"

Maxine Blackmon Jones '59 (*Pelham, AL*): "Becoming a nurse was not one of my early childhood goals. I always had a strong desire to help others but I considered doing that as an English or mathematics teacher or as an attorney. I had an appendectomy at the impressionable



age of 15. The hospital nurse who took care of me was a kind, efficient, beautiful lady who looked like Jane Russell, a famous movie star in the 1950s. That experience helped me to realize that nursing was a wonderful way to help others.

After high school graduation there was no money for me to attend a regular college so I considered a career in nursing. I obtained a loan scholarship from a local bank in my

hometown of Opelika, Alabama. I can't recall the amount but it covered the fees to attend Charity Hospital School of Nursing for three years. That loan was repaid as soon as I started my first job which was as an assistant instructor in Fundamentals of Nursing at Charity.

Most of my career has been in nursing education at Charity, LSU, South Georgia College, Columbus College, and the University of Alabama in Birmingham. I worked as a staff nurse one summer at the Ridgecrest Baptist Assembly in Glorieta, New Mexico. For two years I served as a Flight Nurse Captain in the Mississippi Air National Guard. Flight nursing culturally enriched my life through trips to Puerto Rico, Hawaii, Portugal and Spain.

One of the early student nurse experiences I recall was, as freshmen, being assigned to raise and lower the flag. We ate peanut butter and jelly sandwiches nightly for three years. Our clinical hospital experiences were the very best. I remember hearing inexperienced hospital telephone operators page Dr. A G Ratio and Dr. Frank

Sinatra. I recall answers to questions such as LOA being 'late on arrival' instead of left occiput anterior. My own memorable error was defining morphology as the 'study of morphs' which caused a reserved Sister Gertrude, our microbiology teacher, to laugh out loud. My classmates often remind me of that faux pas when we reminisce at class reunions.



I believe nursing offers one an opportunity to live a good life through the knowledge of what constitutes good health. It offers a way to enhance both the health of others as well as one's own well being. What a joy it is to help save a life and to improve the quality of that life through good nursing care! I am proud to be a member of the class of 9-10-59 which my classmates and I consider to be the best class. I was both blessed and humbled to be a member of a class which had so many outstanding leaders.

Scholarships and traineeships have partially funded all my higher educational pursuits. I am a strong proponent of helping others to pursue higher education. I have served on an Educational Trust Fund committee at my church which provides scholarships to colleges, universities and seminaries. It is a delight to contribute to scholarship funds at the UAB School of Nursing where I taught for 20 years and also to contribute now to the scholarship fund at Charity-Delgado. I encourage each of you to consider funding a scholarship for a deserving student." *Maxine organized her classmates to establish the **Ruth Wallace Pin Fund** and regularly gives generous gifts to that fund and to the Alumni Scholarship Fund. In September, the **Maxine Blackmon Jones Scholarship** was presented to Level 4 student **Janell Amerson**.*

Joan Bero '63 (*Hermosa Beach, CA*): "I believe that the successes I experienced in my professional life were due to the experiences I had at Charity Hospital School of Nursing. My career in Nursing spanned many years including staff nursing to Nursing Administration. Over these years I received my BSN and then a MBA. I had the amazing opportunity to move into Hospital Administration. Believe me, my nursing background served me well. I remained in Hospital administration as CEO until I retired. I look back over my career and absolutely believe that CHSN was the foundation! There is no way that I can ever repay the school, my instructors, the hospital for my education except in some small →

way by paying it forward and supporting the Alumni Association and the students.” *Joan’s continuing generosity has enabled the Alumni Association to offer Catastrophic Grants (larger emergency grants for students in more dire situations) through our Student Emergency Assistance Fund.*

Photo at right: **Dottee Delatte Kochsiek ‘63** (Milton, LA) and **Madeleine Moreau Crawford ‘63** (New Orleans, LA) share a baseball victory with their grandsons Leland and James. “What are the chances of friends from Class of 1963 discovering each other at the ball park?”

Patricia Healy Kyte ‘64 (Covington, LA) is the daughter of Dr. Thomas Healy, a WW2 veteran who helped found St. Tammany Parish Hospital in Covington, Louisiana. Patricia has worked for decades at that hospital along with several members of her family, including her daughters - the third generation of the Healy clan at STPH. Daughter **Anne Kyte Thiel ‘02** is also a Charity alumni, and is now a Nurse Practitioner at Woundcare Associates.

Pamela Roberts Gilmer ‘66 (Daytona Beach, FL): “I am 72 and still practicing nursing full time as a medical missionary in the US.”

Photo below: **Angela Foster Pruner** (Murrayville, GA) and **Gayle Manuel Bellow** (Eunice, LA) at the **Class of 1966 Fifty-Year Reunion.**

“We were roommates for three years but had not seen each other in 50 years,” says Gayle. “She is the reason I came to the reunion. She is still so wonderful and I love her. Hopefully we won’t lose each other again.”

Barbara Bonner Folse ‘68 (Fulshear, TX): In July 2016 the Alumni office received three envelopes that had been mailed in August 2015 - almost a year late! Who

knows where those letters had been lost all that time, but we returned the outdated checks to the senders (to let them know why we had never cashed them). We received a lovely note from Barbara who replaced the check, and included an additional \$250. “Enclosed are donations I’d

like to make to several of your funds,” said Barbara. “Charity is my heart! I love to see it being paid forward.”

*Earlier this year, Barbara had made a very generous donation to the Alumni Scholarship Fund and the **Barbara Bonner Folse Pin Award** was presented to Level 4 student **Melissa Stevens** in September.*

Kathleen Saucier Moreau ‘71 (Marksville, LA): “I received my *White Cap* and was happy to see my old roommate **Elaine Schiller Maguire** listed. It also brought back memories of an instructor named J. Weicheit in my freshman year, 1968.

There was something Ms. Weicheit told me in my Fundamentals course - my first clinical experience. I was 17, green, super shy, from the country, and had never left Marksville. ‘Miss Saucier,’ she said, ‘You are intelligent, talented and creative - good college

material. Surely there is something you’d like to be other than a nurse.’ I guess it was a positive spin on ‘You haven’t shown me too much!’ LOL! I answered, ‘No, ma’am, my dad said I can’t come home until I’m a nurse.’ Her sweet words in reply: ‘Then we have a lot of work to do!’ And that word *WE* meant so much to me! I wasn’t working alone.

I retired after teaching practical nursing for 34 years and have kept Ms. Weicheit and her words in my heart all this time. She made me realize that with a little help, understanding and encouragement, goals are achievable!

Thanks to all of you in the Alumni Association for your hard work, dedication and persistence in keeping us old grads in the loop!”

Estelle Collins Vincent ‘85 (New Orleans, LA): “God bless all of you for the wonderful work you do! I loved my years at Charity School of Nursing and all of my wonderful teachers.”

Charlene Rovira ‘92 (Denver, CO): “I will be moving back to the New →



Orleans area in May of 2017 and look forward to attending the alumni events. Nursing has been such a meaningful part of my life. The last ten years I was certified in Hospice and Palliative Care ... it is such a gift for me to serve as a nurse in this special way.”

Dr. Monica LeBlanc Johnson '93 (*Marrero, LA*): Monica was one of eight outstanding Delgado alumni named the 2016 Circles of Excellence Winners in November. Monica was an instructor at Charity School of Nursing and established the **Carroll LeBlanc Pin Award** in memory of her father which was presented to Charity students in 2014 and 2015. Monica is now an Associate Professor of Nursing at the University of Holy Cross.

Patricia Pittman Brue '95 (*Metairie, LA*): “When I was in my very late 30's, I was married to a Vietnam veteran who was let go from his job and was going from one job to the next. We managed to get the funds together so I could go back to school. I did not qualify for loans or grants. I went to school part-time, worked part-time at Eckerd's Pharmacy as a clerk, and managed three children (the youngest one was only 2 or 3). The baby went to a sitter, our families assisted with two Catholic school tuitions, house payments and just helping out when money was tight. I applied for three allied health possibilities and hoped. My dream came true and I was accepted to Charity School of Nursing! It was a struggle, but I made it.

I could hardly have imagined when I started that in the years to follow I would get a BSN and MSN. I have been teaching in the LPN program at Delgado's Jefferson campus for ten years and it has been wonderful. When I look back on how many nurses are out there, following their passion with good jobs, it overwhelms me! If I could pay it forward I would hope many young men and women would fulfill their passion in life as I have. The job is a lot of work, but it comes with many wonderful memories and fulfillment. I treasure the teachers that helped me to find my passion. Going back to school is the key no matter how old you are!”



Photos at left and below:

Kassidy Prestenbach '11 (*Marrero, LA*): Kassidy graduated from Charity in May 2011, and was working as a nurse at West Jefferson Hospital. Earlier this year she underwent a medical procedure that led to septic shock and organ failure. She miraculously survived, but both legs were amputated below the knees, and she lost part of one hand and all of the other. Kassidy now has prosthetic legs, but needs specialized prosthetic hands, which are not covered by her insurance or even Medicaid. Kassidy has three young children, the youngest less than a year old. She wants to be able to take care of her kids, and ultimately go back to the nursing career she loved. There is a GoFundMe account set up to assist Kassidy in getting the prostheses she needs: www.gofundme.com/KassidysAngels.

The Louisiana Nurses Foundation held their 2016 **Nightingale Awards Program** this past March to honor excellence for Registered Nurses in Louisiana. Congratulations to these Charity alumni: **Patrick Reed '90** (University of Louisiana at Lafayette) and **Lynn Strain '90** (Slidell Memorial Hospital) were among those named Clinical Nurse Educator of the Year. **Cathleen Baudy '94** (New Orleans VA Medical Center) was among those named Advance Practice Registered Nurse of the Year.



Twenty Charity alumni were named the **Great 100 Nurses of Louisiana** for 2016: **Harriet Lyons '73, John Bertucci '81, Brenda Poche '82, Judy Pennison '93, Darlene Boudreaux '97, Patricia LaBrosse '01, Karina Estrada '02, Michelle Breaux '03, Jeremy Landry '04, David Ronnenburg '04, Jennifer Manuel '06, Sandra Prather '06, Erika Ray '06, Mason Green, Jr. '07, Rochelle Johnson '07, Alexander Le '07, Raymond Balser, Jr. '09, Jenn Garnand '11, Bryan Camus '12, Aubrey Kane '14.** Congratulations, Charity nurses! ❖

CASN News

By Kaitlyn Fortier, CASN President

The Charity Association of Student Nurses hit the ground running this semester and we haven't stopped!

In August, we collected donations of food, toiletries, cleaning supplies, formula and dog food for Baton Rouge area flood victims, including a Charity student. In September, we hosted

Dr. Patricia Dufrene '85, the Louisiana State Board of Nursing Director of Education and Licensure, at an event on the City Park campus. The presentation for pre-nursing and nursing students provided information on the requirements of the LSBN for students to enroll in nursing school, do clinical rotations, and to get licensure. Students from all the Delgado campuses attended.

CASN members attended the Alumni Breakfast to sell t-shirts and fleece jackets to raise money to attend the national convention. The students really enjoyed networking with Charity nurses and seeing firsthand what they have to look forward to after graduation!

In October, eight CASN members attended the Louisiana Association of Student Nurses convention in Shreveport, and we won Best Costumes for our mime outfits and Most Creative Scrapbook. CASN also hosted a Blood Drive at the school, performed blood pressure screenings at a community health event at University Medical Center, and volunteered for Boo at the Zoo in Audubon Zoo.

CASN members represented Charity at the Night Out Against Crime on City Park campus with Charity's own Officer Samantha Johnson. We also volunteered for the Great 100 Nurses of Louisiana ceremony.

As another fundraiser for our national convention trip, we sold parking spaces in the School of Nursing garage for the Saints home game on October 30, and will be doing it again on December 4. Come and park with us for \$20.

In November, we invited a guest speaker to talk to us about Forensic Nursing. Nurse Practitioner Anne Troy was

a phenomenal speaker. We learned so much!

We are already looking forward to next semester, to more guest speakers and more volunteering, and to the National Student Nurses Convention. Thank you to the alumni for all your support of CASN! ❖



From top: CASN hosts Patricia Dufrene '85; State Convention; Night Out Against Crime; blood pressure screenings at UMC; Boo at the Zoo.



Scholarships and Awards

At the September Promotion and Awards Ceremony, the Alumni Association presented \$8,400 in scholarships and awards to twenty-two Charity students! All these awards were made possible by our many alumni and friends who give generously to support current Charity nursing students. Thank you to our wonderful donors and congratulations to these recipients.

Scholarships

(Top photo, back to front, left to right): **Chantee Turner**, Joycelyn Gondolfo Jeansonne '78 Scholarship; **Toi Holmes**, Sandra Mallory Deaton '63 Scholarship;

Flavia Garcia, Sally Cooper '59 Scholarship; **Kristen Guilbeau**, Margaret Robichaux Elliott '49 Scholarship; **Amy Larrieu**, Gloria Redmond Ashman '48 Scholarship; **Jason Price**, Julia Spratt '61 Scholarship; **Janell Amerson**, Dr. Maxine Blackmon Jones '59 Scholarship; **Sister Miriam Rivera-Martinez**, Sister Camilla Gaudin Scholarship; **Samantha Eldridge**, Hugh and Maria Garcia Roach '38 Scholarship; **Alexis Heard**, Leona Kruebbe Hilbert '46 and Dr. Gerard Hilbert Scholarship; **Alisa Terrell**, Mary Ann Signorelli Whynot '46 Scholarship.

Level 4 Pin Awards

(Bottom photo, back to front, left to right): **Precious King**, Martha Meaux Genin '65 Pin Award; **Krista Sabillon**, Eleanor Crowder Spence '59 Pin Award; **Heather Daigle**, Geneva Dufour Waters '48 Pin Award; **Melissa Stevens**, Barbara Bonner Folse '68 Pin Award; **Carmen Berggren**,

Raymond John Johnson, Jr. Pin Award;

Rachel Giammolva,

Nancy Rooker Dorsa '53 Pin Award;

Diane Gordon, Enzel O'Neill "Scottie"

Pennington '51 Pin Award; **Sara Trahan**,

Mally Neil Clement '66 Pin Award;

(not pictured) **Kylie Dinoso**, Joan Arceneaux Levasseur '60 Pin Award.

Federation Awards

The Federation of Registered Professional and Licensed Practical Nurses of Charity Hospital Awards were given to **Katie Martinez** (Level 4) in the RN program, and to **Amy Beaulieu** in the PN Program. ❖



Margaret Palmisano: Nursing Pioneer

By Lista Hank '97

The casual observer's first impression of Margaret Palmisano might be of a soft-spoken, petite and attractive older lady, always smartly and immaculately dressed. "I worked on my high school newspaper," Margaret chuckles, "and it was printed by the *Bogalusa News*. The owner of the *News* figured out that I was willing to do just about anything on the newspaper staff, so he offered me a job." She was thrilled. "I showed up on my first day of work all dressed up in my perfect little white dress and my pretty white shoes – and that day the folding machine broke down." She spent the day hand-folding hundreds of copies of the inky newsprint. "You can imagine what I looked like at the end of the day!" It's a great story because it tells you so much about Margaret: She is eager, optimistic - and willing to get down to work and get dirty!

Only after you notice how great Margaret looks, you might notice she uses a wheelchair, the result of a bad auto accident in 2000. She is able to walk, but finds it easier to scoot around in the chair, propelling herself along with her feet. "I get around faster in the wheelchair," she explains. "At home I have a wheelchair downstairs and a second one upstairs, but I walk up and down the stairs because I figure it's good exercise."

A Country Girl

She was born Margaret Oalman in 1929 and grew up in a small country town between Covington and Bogalusa. Her mother was a nutritionist, her father repaired heavy machinery. "Even though the Depression had ended, it was still a depression," says Margaret. "It was the country, so people had gardens, some had pigs or sheep. Everyone shared what they had. We got by."

Margaret's father would sometimes work 24 hours at a stretch. Margaret remembers how she and her sister would go to the ice house and collect the shaved ice created when the big blocks were sawed, and take it to



their dad to cool him off when he was working. Their father also went to work on the Panama Canal expansion in the 40s.

"They were cutting down a lot of big trees, and he kept the equipment going."

There was no Causeway from the Northshore, so the only way to get to New Orleans was to drive by way of Slidell and cross the bridge there, or take a ferry or a train. "I remember when I turned six, we rode the train to visit my grandparents, and I loudly declared to the conductor that I was SIX YEARS OLD! My mother was so outdone because

kids under six could ride for free." Margaret laughs at the memory. "I always did have a big mouth!"

As a small child, Margaret had meningitis. "I was so sick, the doctors told my parents that if I lived, I would be mentally deficient." That became something of a family joke as Margaret got older and excelled in school. "If I brought a paper home from school that was less than an A, my dad would say, *Well, you can't help it, you're mentally deficient.*"

Nursing Came Naturally

From an early age, Margaret was taught by her mother to cook and take care of her brothers and sisters and her grandmother who was a diabetic. On the day of Margaret's tenth birthday, her mother died. "I took over."

Margaret's dad later remarried. "My step-mom's relatives all seemed to die young because of heart spasms." Her stepmother's sister had TB so her child came to live with Margaret's family. "Really, if anyone needed someone to take care of them, or even just needed a place to stay, they would come to our house."

Perhaps it is no surprise that Margaret decided to become a nurse. "I always wanted to be a nurse for as long as I can remember." And there was no question that she would attend Charity. "There was never anyplace else for me." Margaret was one of three girls in her high school class that enrolled at Charity, including her friend **Celeste Haik Ulmer '49**. "Celeste and I were like sisters, pretty much inseparable. So it was great to go to Charity and be roommates with my best friend!"

It wasn't all that common for girls to be going off to pursue a career, but the war was still on, and there was a nursing shortage because so many nurses had gone off →

to serve in the Army Nurse Corps. Many of Margaret's male classmates were headed for the Pacific Theatre.

On to Charity

Charity's program at that time was three years, straight through, with no breaks except for two weeks off that a student could choose to take at either Christmas or in the summer. "Pretty much as soon as you got to Charity, you were working in the wards," says Margaret.

The first six months were called Pre-Clinical, and "we were basically nursing assistants, taking temperatures, carrying bedpans, changing linens, giving baths." Classes in anatomy, physiology and chemistry were in the mornings, all taught by doctors or senior medical students. Clinical instructors were all nurses.

Students got a stipend of \$10 a month and a free uniform, "but they got their money's worth!" says Margaret. "They were getting a lot of service in exchange. You were committed to 48 hours a week including attending classes."

Freshmen wore a Pre-Clinical cap, and uniforms were sent to the laundry for cleaning. "The belts would come back limp, and we all wanted real stiff belts to show off our small waists. We would cook starch in the little kitchenettes on each floor of the dorm, dip the belt in the starch then smooth the belt onto the mirror in our dorm room. In the morning, the belts would be dry, and we would peel them off the mirror, nice and crisp."

House mothers would inspect the students' dorm rooms and make sure they were in bed at the proper time. There were punishments for infractions like coming home late, or being out of uniform. "You couldn't wear your cap on the street unless you were on your way to the hospital. If you went to mass at St. Joseph, you had to take off your cap, but bring a scarf to wear because you had to cover your head in church." Freshmen were assigned alphabetically to raise and lower the flag every day, at sun-up and sundown, in full uniform.

Eat Dessert First

"We were always short on time. We only had 30 minutes for lunch, so when you got in line in the cafeteria, you would start eating. Desserts were first on the counter, so we ate dessert first! By the time you got to the end of the line, you had finished and could get back to the floor."

After the first six months, students got their Charity cap at the Capping Ceremony. They also received a small ceramic nurse's lamp. "As a senior, you got a Black Band, a piece of black grosgrain ribbon that you stuck on

your Charity cap with straight pins. At graduation, you took off the Black Band."

Charity had 3000 beds, but at times the census surged and there might also be patients on "rollers" (stretchers) between the beds. There was always one nun, wearing her sweeping coronet, supervising each floor of the hospital. In the daytime one RN and a student would take care of fifteen patients in a ward. There were no nurses' aides, just someone to sweep the floors and clean bedpans. At night, a Charity senior might have five wards with fifteen beds in each ward. Seniors were often the only nurses on the floor because of the nursing shortage. Students literally staffed the hospital. "You were it," says Margaret.

"Stay Off That Roof"

It was always a new adventure being a student, with plenty of surprises. Margaret remembers assisting with her first surgery, standing poised to hand the surgeon his next instrument – "and he turns around and hands me a leg" – the patient's amputated limb!

It could also be challenging. "I was working the night shift on the psych unit when this really big patient started seeing elephants and snakes." Becoming increasingly agitated, he pulled the grating right off a window, and crawled out on the roof. Margaret climbed out right after him, and told him, "You get right back in here – I'm not going to stand for this!" The gentleman looked down at tiny little Margaret and went back inside. "Sister Laurentia came and fussed at ME," remembers Margaret laughing. "She said, *I want you to stay off that roof!*"

But it was an exciting time to be at Charity, too. Sister Stanislaus was still around. "She was always there for everyone." Penicillin, of course, was new. It was so precious, it was kept locked in the narcotics box and had to be signed out. Dr. Alton Ochsner had established Charity's surgical teaching program and it was one of the best in the country. Dr. DeBakey (who pioneered bypass surgery and the first artificial heart) was a surgical resident at Charity.

"Everyone was a little intimidated by Dr. Ochsner. He always corrected you if you said *Oshner* instead of *Oxner*. I remember the first time I scrubbed for him. Everyone was nervous." After the surgeon washed his hands, Margaret had to sprinkle powder on his hands so he could pull on his gloves. "Everyone would *shake* the can of powder over the doctors hands" (Margaret demonstrates a vigorous up and down motion) "and the other nurses warned me not to accidentally touch his hands with the →



can while shaking it. Well, I just held the can of powder still, above his hands, and tapped the backend of it." It sprinkled out perfectly with no chance of contamination. "I remember Dr. Ochsner said, *That's the most intelligent thing I've ever seen.*" It was a small moment, but an early indication of how Margaret could always think outside the box, see the problem and find a new approach.

Fighting Disease

"My class was the first group after the Cadet Nurses program wrapped up at Charity. Six months before they graduated, the Cadet Nurses left for their military training, and the rest of us could choose a specialty to pursue. During our student rotations, I had fallen in love with Communicable Diseases, so that's what I chose. Maybe it was because I had meningitis as a child."

The Communicable Disease building was behind the original LSU Medical School on Gravier Street. "The first floor was Admitting, the second floor was Pediatrics (diseases like meningitis and diphtheria), the third floor was salmonella, shigella and other diarrheas. The fourth floor was adults – mostly patients with typhoid, fungal lung infections, or miliary TB, too sick to be treated over in the regular TB building. Teachers got TB a lot in those days, because they were exposed to so many people." Polio patients were in another building as well.

The fifth floor was children with miliary tuberculosis that had spread to the brain causing tuberculosis meningitis. "It was 100% fatal until the government started a program of intrathecal drug treatment. One of the drugs would turn the kids' hair red, but they lived."

Occasionally they would even get suspected smallpox patients – which could be spread through the air. "No one could visit the patients, and the staff all had to get the smallpox vaccine again - just not taking any chances."

Once, on an especially hectic night, they got an unusual admit – a patient with a diagnosis of *GOK*. "None of us knew what that meant or what to set up for – whether a spinal tap or whatever. Turned out it stood for *God Only Knows.*"

The patient Margaret remembers most from those days was a tiny red-headed little girl who came in with severe TB. "She was skin and bones, but the most beautiful child I ever saw. She was hospitalized for so long and no one ever came to see her. One of the pediatricians wanted to adopt her," but when the family got wind of her interest, they suddenly appeared and the doctor dropped the idea. When the girl was discharged she was pink-cheeked and healthy, but a few months later she was back with the TB resurgent and "all skin and bones again," Margaret remembers with a sad shake of her head.

Life in the City

Margaret and her class graduated in 1949. Celeste got married. Margaret and another Charity classmate, Lee Nordman, shared an apartment in the French Quarter, on

the corner of Dauphine and St. Louis Streets. "We could walk home from working at Charity Hospital after dark through the French Quarter and never worried about a thing – I suspect no one ever bothered us because we were Charity nurses."

Mardi Gras parades rolled through the Quarter in those days. "We could stand on our balcony and watch the parades." Diamond Jim Moran's restaurant was next door. Two judges lived on the corner and Clay Shaw lived across the street. "We socialized with all of them. I think that was the only time in my life that I knew people as open to socializing across class lines as that. When it was time for a party, everyone had their role. Lee and I always had the keg of beer or wine on our balcony. I remember looking down during one party and there was a guy lying on his back below with his mouth open – catching a stream of wine coming off our balcony."

A Guinea Pig

After graduation, Margaret immediately started working toward her BS in Nursing Education at LSU Medical School and Loyola. Once she had that degree, "the Associate Dean of Tulane Med School and Dean of Public Health recruited me as a guinea pig." Up to that point, the Masters in Public Health program had only enrolled doctors, engineers or sometimes a nurse who had been in Public Health for years and years. They wanted to experiment to see if a regular nurse could handle the Public Health curriculum. "Well, I could, and after that they recruited me for the doctorate program," says Margaret, and she went to work for Tulane Pediatrics.

If there was any animosity from the men in the program, Margaret says she wasn't aware of it. "Everyone was for you, pushing you. The head of the LSU Public Health program called me the Infernal Optimist." That's not to say there was no sexual harassment. One well-known physician used to call Margaret the Ice Queen because she wouldn't go out with him. "It doesn't sound like a compliment, but he half-way meant it as one - he respected me for it. We got along – but we were *friends* only!"

The Mad Scientist

By now, Margaret was living on St. Charles Avenue along with one of her sisters. "When I was in the Master's program, there were 35 students in my class and only one other person was from the U.S. I became the Social Director for all those international students. My sister and I would invite everyone over for boiled seafood. We would bleach out the bathtub, fill it with ice and serve seafood from the bathtub!"

Around this time there was a local television celebrity called Morgus the Magnificent, a "mad scientist" whose antics formed the frame stories around broadcasts of old horror or sci-fi movies. "I knew Morgus – his real name was Sid Noel – from my high school days," says →

Margaret. “He was the nephew of the owner of the *Bogalusa News*.

Walking home from church one Sunday evening, Margaret and her sister realized that the next day was Halloween, and decided to throw a party. “We called up Sid and told him to bring some friends.” One of the friends he brought was Frank Palmisano – who would soon become Margaret’s husband. Not many people can claim they were introduced to their spouse by Morgus on Halloween!

After earning her doctorate, Margaret was invited to join the faculty at LSU. Between her move from Tulane to LSU, Margaret took a month off to get married, and she and Frank bought a house. Frank was a salesman and was never involved in the medical field. They would have three children together, two girls and one boy.

A Matter of Heart

A Professor of Pathology, Preventive Medicine and Public Health at LSU, Margaret split her time between the research lab and teaching medical students. In the 1960s, Margaret was invited to join the International Atherosclerosis Project. “The project was trying to correlate high coronary death rates with plaque in coronary arteries. This was the beginning of making that connection.”

The Project collected over 20,000 coronary arteries and aortas for analysis. “We had participants from Japan, Germany, Norway, Puerto Rico – from all over the world. Each had a designated pathologist to collect arteries according to our protocol. Our team of pathologists would then do blind analysis to measure percentage and kind of plaques, lesions, etc. We had five pathologists giving their opinions. I organized a lot of arteries!”

Research work was gratifying, but often put Margaret in the awkward position of challenging long standing beliefs. “Of course I was put on every committee as the token woman and note taker,” she says, but she was often more outspoken than many of her colleagues expected. “One of the deans used to say to me, *Don’t confuse me with the facts; my mind is already made up!* Of course, it was a joke. He and I got along great. He would tell me sometimes, *There’s a hot biscuit on your desk*, and I would know he had brought me a hibiscus flower.”

As healthcare providers, “we get frustrated because treatments that should work aren’t working – but the basis of the treatment can be all wrong. That’s why the artery study started. Before that, no one thought that a little



thing like a plaque could mess up the whole heart!”

Margaret attended a few international conferences, but she never enjoyed that kind of traveling. “I preferred to write the papers and let someone else present them at conference.”

Back to the Country

Margaret continued to work with the Project as the research entered new phases over the years. She retired after Hurricane Katrina and now enjoys the country life in Folsom, Louisiana. “I have a satsuma tree and fig tree, and blackberries grow in abundance!”

Margaret’s husband Frank and their eldest daughter have passed away. Margaret has a total of three grandsons – one from each of her children. “I always do something new and exciting when I’m with my grandkids,” she says.

Margaret loves to cook and is the chef for family holidays and family vacations. Every year her extended family gathers on the Gulf Coast, renting a condo at Orange Beach or Gulf Shores. She makes and freezes big batches of chicken and andouille gumbo, meatballs, red beans and rice. “Then it’s easy to feed the crowd, and no one has to be out of the water very long!” She also loves to fish and the family has a camp in Four Points near Dulac.

Margaret is also an inveterate reader. “I will sit up all night to finish a story. I read *The Rise and Fall of the Third Reich* in three days.” She will occasionally proofread research articles that people send to her, or review articles for publication.

Margaret’s half-sister Mary Etta Holiday is twenty years younger than her, but they are very close. “She calls me her *Little Mother*,” says Margaret. Mary Etta is an artist and lives in Covington. She has contributed numerous etched glass pieces for raffles at Charity Alumni events, and her painting of the Sister Stanislaus Memorial dorm, wreathed with ethereal Daughters of Charity, is sold as a poster by the Alumni Association.

Giving Back

Margaret has been an active member of the Charity Alumni Association for many years. She has served as President, on the Board of Directors, and is currently on the Advisory Committee. In 2012 she endowed the Margaret Palmisano Alumni Award, presented at graduation to a student selected by the faculty. Margaret established the award because she believes that there →

are truly outstanding students who go unrecognized because they don't always have grades quite high enough to receive other graduation awards. She also believes that not having the money to purchase a pin should never keep a student from participating in the Pinning Ceremony.

Margaret's advice for new nurses is "Enjoy! Nursing is a career where you can always change and do something else - as long as you study and grow. Continue your education. Whether you do it formally or not, you have to do it." Asked about her own pioneering career and the challenges she has faced both personally and professionally, Margaret smiles. "Well, I'm a Charity nurse. Where there's a will, there's a way." ♦

Morgus & Me

By Katherine Romero '69

This actually happened... kind of embarrassing, really. When I was a new, young instructor at CHSN, my mother had a friend who worked at WDSU-TV with Sid Noel – aka Doctor Momus Morgus of the *Morgus the Magnificent Show*. They were getting ready to do an episode where they wanted a nurse for one of the characters. My mom's friend asked me if I would do the show. I thought it would be fun, and I went on the show wearing my Charity cap and uniform.

The backstory was that Chopsley, Doctor Morgus' assistant, was a motorcycle policeman for Chalmette PD. He had had an accident with his motorcycle and so couldn't help Morgus in his laboratory. As the story went, Dr. Morgus was looking for replacements and was interviewing candidates. I was playing a nurse trying out for the job.

The movie that night was *The Invisible Man* and during the intermission Dr. Morgus was trying an experiment to make the Invisible Man visible, but the Invisible Man just went around causing havoc in the lab. The joke was that the Invisible Man would "pinch" me (really there was no one there – he was invisible!) but on my cue I would react as though I'd actually been pinched. I did my bit, the show went fine, and I didn't think any more about it.

A week or so later, my TV appearance was the furthest thing from my mind when I was told to go see Sister Blanche. I was so excited to be called to her office! I thought I must have done something wonderful. I just knew that I was going to be nominated for instructor of the year, or something great like that!

Well, to put it mildly, Sister Blanche was not happy. She made it very, very clear to me that my behavior was highly unacceptable. The wearing of my cap and pin on TV was unprofessional and not allowed. I was so naïve

that I was sort of shocked. I came in expecting accolades (for what, I really don't know), but instead I was reprimanded!

Actually I think it was a jealous person who ratted me out... but I never found out! (So if you are reading this, your plan worked and I got into a lot of trouble!)

Funny thing about that show... I volunteered for the Red Cross at Saints games at Tulane stadium. One day I had to go up in the stands for a person having a heart attack – and someone recognized me!!!! "Hey, you're that nurse on Morgus... did you get Chopsley's job?" Not only that, but the man who would later become my husband saw the episode too, and he still talks about it.

I have looked on *You Tube* many times in hopes of finding that episode but have been unsuccessful. If anyone knows how to find it, I would love to see it.

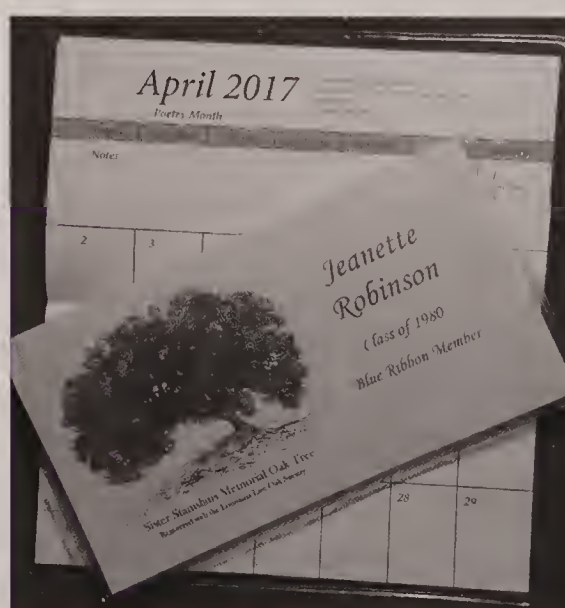
I loved all of the Sisters and they made me who I am today. Sister Blanche was totally correct, and I think of her fondly whenever I recall my brief foray into television!

♦

Got Artwork or Ideas?

We are always looking for new graphics for our pocket planners, souvenirs and t-shirts. We know there are artists among the alumni, so send us your designs! If we use your artwork, you will get fame, the adoration of millions (well, okay, thousands) and we'll give you a free one of whatever it is we use your design on. Is that cool enough?

If you have ideas for souvenirs you'd like us to offer, let us know that, too. Just email or mail to the Alumni Office. ♦



Members who join or renew at the \$25 level or above receive their choice of gifts:

- Personalized Alumni Pocket Planner featuring the Sister Stanislaus Oak Tree



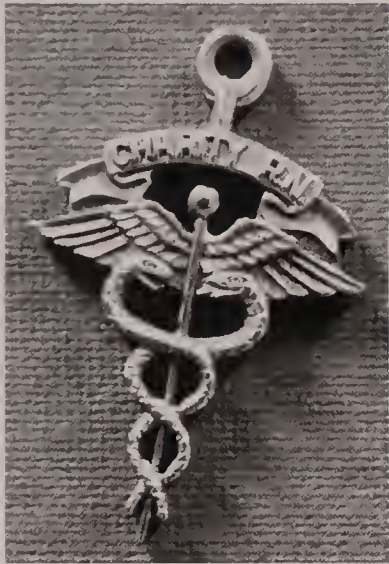
- Canvas Alumni Key Ring, or
- Vintage Postcard of the Dorm.

Use the form on page 26 or go to our website:

www.CharityAlumni.org

Cut out this page and leave it in a strategic location... or just order stuff for yourself!

Great holiday and graduation gifts!



Charity RN
Caduceus
Charm

You've been asking -
now we have it!
An elegant classic.
Gold-plated,
approx. 3/4" tall.
\$35



Charity Afghan

Blue & White. Cozy & beautiful!
\$65



Pin Ornaments

So cute! Wooden ornaments in image
of the graduation pins. Approx. 3.5"
\$8

CHSN Pin



CSN-DCC Pin



Ceramic Dorm Plaque

Hand-crafted, 3-dimensional,
ceramic wall plaque of the old
Charity dorm. Gorgeous!
6" x 8"
\$45

Baseball Cap

Navy blue with gold embroidery.
Very cool.
\$20



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To order by mail, just send us a note with your name, shipping address and a list of items you want,
and your check payable to "CHSN Alumni Association." Mail to: CHSN Alumni Association,
Delgado Charity School of Nursing, 450 South Claiborne Ave, New Orleans, LA 70112.
Prices include shipping. Orders must be received by December 16 to guarantee Christmas delivery!

Goodbyes

Mary Boston LaHaye '43: "My mother Mary LaHaye died in September at the age of 94. I found this photo in her nursing school files and thought the Alumni Association might like to have it. It is a picture of my mom and her classmates at the 1975 Homecoming."

- Suzanne LaHaye

Right, the photo Suzanne sent from Homecoming 1975. With Mary's death, the entire group is now deceased.

Left to right: **Lessie Whipp Wynne '43, Mary Boston LaHaye '43, Nancy Cotham Light '43, Gertrude LaCroix Wood '44, Ruth LaCroix DiLeo '43, Myrtle Bourgeois Allen '43, Mildred Rushing Cancienne '43, Lelias Domingue Milligan '43.**



Dorothy Bernard '50: Dorothy was a Nurse Practitioner in obstetrics and gynecology, and a Lieutenant Colonel in



the US Air Force. From the 1950s through the late 1970s, she worked in Air Force hospitals in Texas, California, England and Japan. She also taught medical students and published extensively in her field. In 1982, she joined Planned Parenthood in San Antonio, Texas, as a Family Planning Nurse Practitioner. She passed away in May 2016,

and her brother sent the Alumni Association many of her nursing mementoes, including her diploma and Charity pin, for our archives.

Eleanor Crowder Spence '59: "My mother Eleanor was born in Texas in 1937, one of seven children who grew up hunting and fishing on the bayou. By attending Charity Hospital School of Nursing, she was able to fulfill her lifelong dream of becoming a RN. She went on to become a Nurse Anesthetist, and worked in anesthesia for 35 years. She finished out her long career in Occupational Health with Amoco Oil Company. Her retirement years were spent in the beautiful mountains of Montana. Eleanor's passion for caring for others impacted all three of her daughters whose professions include Vaccine Coordinator for a Public Health Department, Nurse Practitioner, and a Social Worker. Her legacy is being carried on through her grandchildren who are pursuing a variety of degrees in the medical field. Eleanor was a

strong and independent woman who truly achieved all of her dreams through dedication and perserverance. She taught us all to always follow your passion and fulfill your dreams!" - Terri Wade

Eleanor's classmate Sharon Mumbleau '59 made a generous donation to the Alumni Scholarship Fund in her memory, and the Eleanor Crowder Spence Pin Award was presented to Level 4 student Krista Sabillon in September.

Saundra Mallory Deaton '63: After graduating from Charity Hospital School of Nursing, Saundra Mallory Deaton began her career as a RN at Charity Hospital where she was one of six nurses to open the ICU in the almost 3,000 bed facility. She told interesting stories of the nurses having to steal supplies from other units to treat the ICU patients, due to budget constraints!

After leaving Charity she became a homemaker for the next ten years, and won many awards for her talents in crafts and canning at the Washington County Fair. But she found herself drawn back by her love of nursing.

In 1990, Saundra was hired as charge nurse in the Medical Unit at Our Lady of Lourdes Hospital in Lafayette. In 1993, she was promoted to Director of Nursing, where patient care was of the utmost importance to her. She retired from Our Lady of Lourdes in 2005 as the Director of Nursing Operations. She missed her elderly patients dearly, and chose to continue her service and love for patient care as a volunteer at Lourdes. She also enjoyed volunteering for the Susan G. Komen Runs, digital scrapbooking, traveling abroad with friends, and spending time with her cherished granddaughter. →



In her last days, Sandra's family members were humbled by the many stories, memories and compliments told by the staff members at Our Lady of Lourdes who had worked with Sandra and were now caring for her. Sandra passed away on April 16, 2016, six days after her



75th birthday. At her request, donations from family and friends were made in her memory to the Alumni Scholarship Fund. In September, the **Sandra Mallory Deaton Scholarship** was presented to Level 4 student **Toi Holmes**.

Sandra's sister Vicki writes, "My sister Sandra was a wonderful nurse. She loved her patients and her work. It

was so impressive to see and speak with so many of her nurses and friends in nursing, and the many nurses who she taught in her early years of teaching. She was my only sibling so it will certainly be hard to accept the fact that I will never see her again on earth. I can look forward to seeing her again in heaven. I know she is talking with every friend and relative who has gone before us!"

William Borne '80: "Baton Rouge experienced many losses in the flood of 2016, however one person lost in this time should not be overlooked: **William F. "Bill" Borne**, the founder and former CEO of Amedisys, one of Baton Rouge's few publicly traded companies. Going from the bayou to Wall Street is a long journey that Bill accomplished with a laser focus. He didn't do it alone. He had talented help along the way, but it was his leadership that kept the company going for 30 years.

Amedisys grew because it was the first home health company that treated acutely ill patients at home with hospital-trained nurses using the latest drugs and technology. It led the way in tracking outcomes and measuring patients' progress in real time with proprietary software. Amedisys continued to innovate with disease management programs to produce even better results for chronically ill patients.

None of this happened by accident. It took vision and a constant struggle to fund growth and meet public market expectations. It was not a straight path. There were detours and many obstacles, but Bill was relentless. His



efforts were recognized when he was named Forbes *Entrepreneur of the Year* in 2004.

Because Bill was a nurse and had himself been on the front lines, he knew how difficult it was to care for complex and very ill patients. To inspire his employees he was not above assuming characters like George Patton and bringing managers together to learn, be recognized and have fun.

There are lessons in this story for Louisiana entrepreneurs. Starting a company with your parents' savings and a small group of talented people, and growing it to change the delivery of health care sounds impossible, but that is the Amedisys story. This company hopefully provides a path for other to follow."

- *Barbara Carey, President,
The Communication Institute, Baton Rouge*

Rosalina Macasaet Smith '91: Rosalina was born in the Philippines, earned a BA at Marknoll College and met her husband in Canada. They immigrated to the United States in 1985, and Rosalina decided to attend Charity Hospital School of Nursing. Her career as a RN spanned assignments in New Orleans, Atlanta, Virginia, Florida and clinical aid to foreign service personnel at the US Embassies in Manila, Moscow and Paris.

Jana Wilson Conrad '01: "Jana was my best friend from birth. Our parents were best friends, so basically she was my family. The fact that we both became Charity nurses in adulthood is pretty interesting. Jana died suddenly in April from a heart attack at 57-years-old. I want to purchase a brick that reads: *Shannon LaBruzza '93 and Jana W. Conrad '01, Forever Friends*. Please send the brick certificate to her husband and family."

- *Shannon LaBruzza '93*

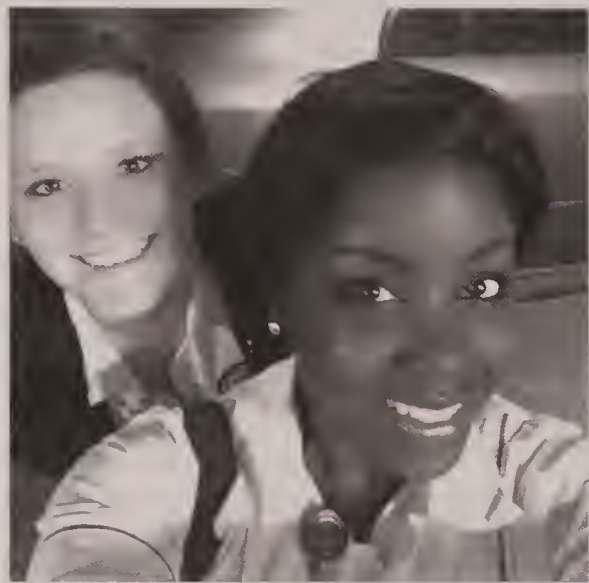
Dianne Morales Crago passed away peacefully in Covington, LA, on August 10, 2016. Dianne was born in New Orleans, where she graduated from St. James Major High School. After graduating from Delgado Community College with a degree in Business, Dianne worked for Charity Hospital School of Nursing for 33 years where she was the Registrar of the Nursing School, in Admissions, and served on many campus council committees. She counseled many nursing students who have gone on to excel and perform as some of our finest nurses to this day. She loved Charity and really cared for the students. ❖



My Friend MarKeshia

By Elizabeth Blappert '15

I met **MarKeshia Williams '15** in August 2013 on our first day of nursing school. Our friendship was instant



and effortless. She made those early mornings and late nights a lot more bearable. We became study buddies and it seemed like I saw MarKeshia more than I saw anyone else in my life. MarKeshia became my backbone and I have her to account

for my success through school. She was always pushing me to do my best.

MarKeshia always set and accomplished her goals. She was so ambitious and striving to push herself to advance her knowledge. She proved this to be true throughout her entire academic career. She first became a LPN, then went back to school to become a RN at Charity. She was in the process of receiving her BSN online from ULL while working full-time at Ochsner when she was in a car accident that sadly took her life. She accomplished all these things while raising a beautiful and intelligent daughter.

MarKeshia left a lasting impression on everyone she met. She was a tiny girl with such a large personality. She walked into a room and completely captured it. Her laugh was contagious and she was such a beautiful soul.

I am establishing a Pin Award in honor of MarKeshia. I want to create this award to keep her memory alive at Charity. During our time at Charity School of Nursing, we were both recipients of awards from the Alumni Association. I am making this donation to give another Charity student the opportunity to receive a beautiful



Charity pin, just as we were given so many opportunities by those who graduated before us. I would like to thank the Alumni Association for allowing this to be possible.

I hope our classmates, and anyone who wishes

In Memoriam

We publish the names of those alumni who have passed away as we learn of them, with their graduation year and date of death.

Farewell to these friends:

Helen Armstrong Gardner '40 (4/7/13)
 Mary Boston LaHaye '43 (9/22/16)
 Lelias Domingue Milligan '43 (11/1/13)
 Gertrude "Trudy" LaCroix Wood '44 (12/15/07)
 Leethie Kay Schlaf '45 (2/12/15)
 Martha Krabbenhoft Boe '47 (4/25/05)
 Ruth Cornwell Hawley '47 (2/22/12)
 Marie Cascio Richard '48 (11/5/11)
 Sybil Clinton Raper '49 (7/10/16)
 Dorothy Bernard '50 (5/27/16)
 Emma Bennett Hanna '50 (9/21/14)
 Helen Hickman Shriner '50 (1/30/16)
 Mary Jane Rogers Pastorek '52 (8/8/16)
 Zoa Clow Griffin '54 (9/24/16)
 Shirley Prudhomme Holt '56 (2/19/09)
 Nancy Irene Dunn Louis '56 (3/12/13)
 Shirley P. Pounders '56 (5/11/15)
 Eleanor Crowder Spence '59 (6/8/16)
 Elizabeth "Sassy" Turberville Connor '62 (10/3/16)
 Marcia Crocker Ray '65 (8/19/16)
 Dixie May McCloskey '72 (2/20/15)
 Barbara Whitney Tomba '74 (6/27/16)
 William "Bill" Borne '80 (8/16/16)
 Rosemary Davis Katz Fortmayer '80 (6/15/16)
 Rosalina Macasaet Smith '91 (4/15/15)
 Catherine Clement Loyacano '94 (8/14/16)
 Kathleen Joseph '96 (6/27/16)
 Margo Renee Harrison Vial '06 (8/29/14)
 MarKeshia Marie Williams '15 (9/8/16)

Faculty & Staff

Dianne Crago (8/10/16)
 Elizabeth Guerra (6/19/16)
 Barbara Johnson (1/29/15)

to honor MarKeshia's memory, will join me in making a donation to the **MarKeshia Williams Pin Award** so her legacy can continue for years to come.

You can make a donation to the MarKeshia Williams Pin Award on the form on page 26, or on our website.



Above, left to right, Elizabeth Blappert '15 and MarKeshia Williams '15 at Charity School of Nursing; below, MarKeshia and her daughter.

2017 Election Candidate Biographies *The Election Ballot is on page 26.*

PRESIDENT-ELECT CANDIDATE - Unopposed

PATRICK BRADY, Class of 1983: Patrick is currently on the Alumni Association Board of Directors, and has also served on the Advisory Committee. He earned a BSN from Loyola University, a MSN from William Carey College on the Coast, and a Doctorate in Nursing in 2010 from the University of South Alabama. He is now pursuing a second Doctorate in Nursing Education and Administration. As a Sigma Theta Tau member, he served as President of the Upsilon Theta Chapter from 2009 to 2011 and now serves as the Faculty Counselor. Patrick is currently an Associate Professor of Nursing, director of the RN-BSN, RN-MSN, MSN and MSN/MBA programs and the Louisiana Campus coordinator at William Carey University. He has been an active CHSNAA member since graduating in 1983 and resides in Slidell, Louisiana.



TREASURER CANDIDATE - Unopposed

URSULA ALLAIN, Class of 1965: Ursula worked full-time for 30 years at Charity Hospital, mostly in the OR, then part-time for another ten years as a Patient Liaison in the Emergency Room. Though retired, she is an active member in the New Orleans Chapter of AORN. Ursula has served CHSNAA as President, Board Member, on the Nominating Committee, and as Treasurer for many years. Ursula also serves as chairman of the Alumni Association's Scholarship Committee which interviews over two dozen student applicants each semester. Ursula lives in Kenner, Louisiana.

NOMINATING CHAIR CANDIDATE - Unopposed

EMILY OVALLE, Class of 2013: As a student, Emily was the Student Government President and worked with students, faculty and the Alumni Association to improve life on campus. She organized drives to support Food for Families and a Battered Women's shelter. She also coordinated the collection of academic and personal supplies and other resources for her fellow students who were victims of Hurricane Isaac. In the spring of 2013, the Alumni Association awarded Emily the Mary Ann Signorelli Whynot Scholarship. Since graduation, she has remained active as a member of the Advisory Committee of the Alumni Association. She is currently working as an ICU Nurse at Ochsner Baptist. Emily lives in Marrero, Louisiana.



BOARD MEMBER CANDIDATES - Vote for Two

CHARLENE R. BERGER, Class of 1979: Charlene began her career as an Oncology Nurse at Tulane Medical School from 1980 to 1989. Then she became the Research Director of a Private Research Center for four years. She recently retired from the Pharmaceutical Research area after 25 years as Site Manager of Clinical Research sites throughout the US. Working in many different therapeutic areas has broadened Charlene's nursing experience but Oncology and Rheumatology have always been her foremost interests. Charlene was on the Alumni Association Advisory Committee for two years and has served on the Board of Directors for two years. She lives in Kenner, Louisiana.



ALICE CHAMBERS BRADY, Class of 1964: Alice was an Operating Room nurse and Director of Surgical Services for 30 years before her retirement. She earned a BSN from Our Lady of Holy Cross and a MSN from LSU in Baton Rouge. She has been an active member of the Alumni Association for many years, serving as a Board Member, Secretary and Nominations Chair. She is currently serving on the Alumni Association Advisory Committee. Alice lives in Daphne, Alabama.



AMBER STOKES, Class of 2013: Amber is a staff nurse in the ER at St. Bernard Hospital in Chalmette. She was the SGA Vice-President for her class while at Charity as well as the Community Service Coordinator for the Charity Association of Student Nurses (CASN). Amber was the recipient of the Marcelle Jacobs Wright Scholarship while in school and received the Margaret Palmisano Pin Award at graduation. Amber is a strong believer in community service and has been involved in numerous activities with the Second Harvest Food Bank, the New Orleans Medical Mission, and aid to flood victims. Amber lives in New Orleans. ❖

2017

ELECTIONS BALLOT

DIRECTIONS: Circle the names of the candidates of your choice. Cut out the ballot, fold and mail. You can include in the same envelope with other items.

BOARD MEMBERS
(Vote for Two)

CHARLENE BERGER '79

ALICE BRADY '64

AMBER STOKES '13

Check one:

☐ I am current on my membership dues.

☐ I am renewing my membership today.

Mail your ballot to: **CHSN Alumni Association**,
Delgado Charity School of Nursing
450 South Claiborne Ave, New Orleans, LA 70112

INSTRUCTIONS FOR VOTING

Candidate bios are on page 25. Circle your selections on the Ballot at left, cut it out along the dotted lines, and fold it in half to protect the privacy of your vote. Place it in an envelope and mail to the CHSN Alumni Association. You may include the membership form and luncheon reservation in the same mailing envelope. Your Ballot will be placed in a secure ballot box immediately upon receipt. Ballots must be received in the Alumni Office no later than January 31, 2017, to be counted.

CHECK YOUR MAILING LABEL

Only current members are eligible to vote. Check your mailing label for your membership status. The four-digit number adjacent to your name on your mailing label indicates the year your membership expires. If you see “2016” above or to the right of your name, it means your membership expires at the end of 2016. You can vote in this election, but may want to consider renewing your membership now for 2017. If your label has a “0” or a year earlier than 2016, you are overdue to pay your membership, and you should send a check along with your ballot. If the number on your label is 2017 or greater, or if it is 9999, 8888 or 7777 (special membership categories like Lifetime or Sustaining), then you do NOT need to renew your membership and you can go ahead and vote. ❖

CHSNAA MEMBERSHIP FORM

Check your mailing label for the year your membership expires. Use this form to join or to renew.

PLEASE WRITE CLEARLY!

Name _____
First name Maiden/graduating name Last name

Class of: _____

Address: _____
_____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Cell Home

Email: _____

Annual Membership Dues:

- ☐ \$15 Regular Membership
- ☐ \$25 Blue Ribbon Member*
- ☐ \$50 Silver Star Member*
- ☐ \$100 Sr. Stanislaus Member*
- ☐ Sustaining Member: a one-time gift of \$500 (and never pay dues again).*

*Members at these levels, please select your choice of:

☐ Personalized Alumni pocket calendar

☐ Alumni Key Ring

☐ Vintage postcard of the old Charity Dorm

I Want to Contribute to the:

Alumni Scholarship Fund..... \$ _____

Art & Archives Preservation Fund \$ _____

CASN Convention Travel Fund \$ _____

Markeshia Williams Pin Award..... \$ _____

Sister Camilla Scholarship Fund..... \$ _____

Student Activities Fund..... \$ _____

Student Emergency Assistance Fund..... \$ _____

Other: _____ \$ _____

Mail to: **CHSN Alumni Association**

Delgado Charity School of Nursing
450 South Claiborne Ave, New Orleans, LA 70112.

You can write one check for your membership dues and your Spring Luncheon ticket.
You can mail your ballot in the same envelope as well.

You can also join or renew online at
www.CharityAlumni.org



The 2017 Spring Alumni Luncheon

is gonna be

Outta This World!



Join us for an UNEARTHLY adventure!

Saturday, March 25

Sheraton at the Galleria

4 Galleria Blvd, Metairie, LA (From I-10, go Causeway South, turn left on 36th St., go 2 blocks, left on Galleria Blvd, 3 blocks and you're there!) **FREE PARKING!**
Countdown begins at 10:30am with Registration & Cash Bar; **Lunch launches at 11:30am**

Where was space exploration when you were at Charity? The Mercury program, or the Space Shuttle? First Man on the Moon, or the Mars Rover? Carl Sagan, or Neil deGrasse Tyson?



Join friends and classmates in a Space Odyssey as you savor your choice of two delicious entrees, salad, sides and choice of dessert. Souvenirs, raffles, door prizes, trivia - and so much more!



We know ya'll love to dress up, so come as you are - or as your favorite planet, a Space Cowboy or Judy Jetson, Sally Ride or Captain Kirk, Buzz Lightyear or Barbarella.... Just don't get left behind, ET!

The \$40 ticket price covers only the cost of your meal. If you value receiving our newsletters, or any of the other work of the Alumni Association, please consider paying membership dues or making donations to one of our many projects to benefit the School of Nursing. You can write one check for everything. Use the form on page 26 or visit our website.

You can also order your tickets at our website:

www.CharityAlumni.org

Make checks payable to:
CHSN Alumni Association

504-571-1395
chsnaaoffice@gmail.com



2017 Alumni Luncheon Reservation Form

Mail to:
CHSN Alumni Association, Delgado Charity School of Nursing,
450 S. Claiborne Ave, New Orleans, LA 70112
Or purchase tickets online at **www.CharityAlumni.org**
We must receive your payment by March 17, 2017,
to guarantee your seating!

PLEASE WRITE CLEARLY!

Name _____
First name Maiden/graduating name (if applicable) Last name

Class of: _____ Phone: _____ Cell Home

Address: _____
_____ Zip: _____

Email: _____

Total number of people _____ @ \$40 each.....\$_____

Choose your entree & dessert:
___ Chicken Marsala or ___ Pecan Crusted Catfish
___ Apple Tart or ___ Chocolate Decadence Cake

Bringing a Guest? Please give us the name for their Name Tag: _____

Charity Hospital School of Nursing
ALUMNI ASSOCIATION
Delgado Charity School of Nursing
450 South Claiborne Avenue
New Orleans, Louisiana 70112

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Permit No. 1273

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

What is that number by my name?

The four-digit number adjacent to your name on your mailing label indicates the year your membership expires. For example, "2016" above or to the right of your name means your membership expires at the end of 2016. You are current, but you may want to consider renewing your membership now for 2017.

If your label has a "0" or a year earlier than 2016 (such as "2007"), you are overdue! Please join or renew your membership now.

If the numbers on your label are 9999, 8888 or 7777, you are in a special membership category (Lifetime, Sustaining) and you do NOT need to renew your membership.

To renew your membership, use the form on page 26, or go online to:

www.CharityAlumni.org

Mark your calendar for the
Spring Alumni Luncheon
March 25, 2017



Cut out this box and put on your bulletin board or refrigerator. You'll always be able to find what you need to keep in touch!



Charity Hospital School of Nursing Alumni Association

Delgado Charity School of Nursing
450 South Claiborne Ave.
New Orleans, LA 70112
504-571-1395

Email: **chsnaaoffice@gmail.com**

Website: **www.CharityAlumni.org**

Facebook: **Charity Alumni NOLA**

Photo Share Site:

<https://charityalumni.shutterfly.com/>



Volume 49 Summer 2017

From the President

By Bryan J. Camus '12

Where did the time go? How can summer be here already? It seems like only yesterday that I was running around as "Star Fleet Commander Camus" and asking for a star-date at the Spring Luncheon. Now I have to think about my next look for the Fall Breakfast! What if I'm not yet ready to let my inner sci-fi nerd go? Well, I can content myself with a little time-traveling!

Back to the 70s

What a wild roller coaster ride the 1970s were! It was the decade of the American Bicentennial... and of Watergate. Disco was an inferno, and Soul Train was chill. Apple Computers started in a California garage, Patty Hearst was kidnapped, Jonestown drank the Kool-Aid.

TV was as groundbreaking as *Roots*, and as silly as *The Love Boat*. We were reading *Jonathan Livingston Seagull* and *Breakfast of Champions*. It was the dawn of test tube babies, the age of gasoline shortages and streaking. It was *Rocky* and *Rocky Horror Picture Show*, *Annie Hall* and *Animal House*. It began with Three Dog Night singing "Joy to the World," and ended with Three Mile Island.

At Charity, this was the golden age of Sister Blanche, the visionary director of the School of Nursing. Men were now a presence in the student body. The Education Building was constructed.

Celebrating 70s and 7s

So, at the Fall Luncheon, we're celebrating the '70s! And the '7s, so I'm looking for all you '7' classes to try and outdo the incredible turnout of the Class of '67 at the Spring Luncheon! You can read more about the Luncheon on page 3, but I do want to say what a great time we had! It is always so invigorating to be around people who are as passionate - and as fun - as Charity Nurses!

Special Thanks

I want to acknowledge James and Joyce Leissner for establishing the latest of our endowed scholarships (*read more on page 2*). Their generosity means there will be even more financial assistance available to outstanding



Bryan Camus '12 presents the 50/50 drawing prize to **Bonnie Williams '67** at the Spring Luncheon. Bonnie donated her winnings to the Alumni Association.

Charity students *en perpetuum*. How cool is that!

There are so many of our alumni and friends who give from their hearts as well as their wallets to support Charity students. You can see the list of recent outstanding donors on page 12, but a special nod goes to the family of **Leona Kruebbe Hilbert '46** for their endowed scholarship and ongoing support, to **Gloria Redmond Ashman '48** for her bountiful scholarship gifts each year, and to **Joan Bero '63** who has given thousands to fund Catastrophic Grants for Student Emergency Assistance. You are all amazing!

Got the Fever?

I hope to see all of you at the Fall Breakfast. Will you be catching Boogie Fever? Or are you a Disco Duck? Just please don't come in Kung Fu Fighting.... Now excuse me while I go look for my Boogie Shoes. And refresh my memory on how to do the Bump. Or the Funky Chicken.

See all y'all at the Bus Stop! Gotta get my funk on! (Whatever that means!) ❖

From the Executive Director

By Lista Hank '97

Last December, I got a call from Jim Leissner. He and his wife, **Joyce Bonaventure Leissner '57**, had read about the endowed scholarships in the *Alumni News* and wanted to know more.

Joyce graduated from high school in Point Coupee Parish and entered Charity Hospital School of Nursing in 1954. Toward the end of her three wonderful and rewarding years, she met Jim Leissner, a Texas Aggie, in front of Pat O'Brien's on Mardi Gras Day. They exchanged addresses and later Jim flew Joyce over to Texas A&M for a senior dance. "I don't know how I got together enough money to fly her," says Jim, "but it worked out." Indeed it did!

Joyce graduated from Charity in 1957, and Jim came back through New Orleans on his way to Fort Benning to report for active duty. They were married February 2, 1958, had five children within five years (Nathan, Blanche, Naomi, Diane and Laura) and happily raised their family in Texas. Jim was a teacher and computer guy and became "self-unemployed" (retired) after Y2K. Joyce officially retired from nursing in September 2012.

A Lasting Family Legacy

Sadly, Joyce and Jim have lost two of their children: Laura died in 2010, and Nathan in 2016. Joyce and Jim wanted to establish a scholarship endowment in Nathan and Laura's honor, to benefit Charity nursing students. Earlier this year, they donated \$10,000, which was matched by the Delgado Foundation, and created a \$20,000 endowment for the **Joyce Bonaventure and James Leissner Scholarship in memory of their children Nathan and Laura**.

The scholarship awards will be funded only by the interest and dividends from the endowment. In that way, the Leissner scholarships will continue indefinitely to assist outstanding Charity students.

Joyce wasn't able to attend her class's 50-year reunion at the Spring Luncheon, because they had already committed to attend Jim's 50-year reunion at Texas A&M on the very same weekend. We hope they will get a chance to attend a future Charity Alumni event! I am also hoping



Joyce and Jim at the Senior Ring Dance at Texas A&M, and today.



they will send us a longer version of their love story that I can include in a future newsletter!

We are so very proud and grateful that Joyce and Jim chose Charity School of Nursing as a legacy for Nathan and Laura. It will be a lasting tribute to Joyce and Jim as well.

Enjoy Reading

This is another fat newsletter. There's so much good stuff in this issue, I can hardly think of anything to add (even if I had

any room left) except to say THANK YOU to everyone!

Thank you for all your letters and emails and phone calls. Thank you for all your generous gifts in support of all of our projects. Thank you for helping current Charity students with all your donations. Thank you for welcoming each new graduating class into our profession.

And thank you for being a part of the Alumni Association! The history that binds us, and the friendships we share are beyond measure. But the most exciting

thing is, we are making new history and new friends every year as more Charity Nurses join us in this adventure!

So enjoy reading this issue of *The White Cap*, and above all, keep in touch! ❖

Excerpted from A Poem by Lily Garnand

As I look all around me, and see so much has changed,
All my little hopes and dreams have all been rearranged.

I want to be a hero, fly around just doing good,
Learning as I get older to do
the things I should.

Helping little children
And older people too,
If I could jump ahead in time,
I know just what I'd do.

I would not wish for diamonds
Or lots of money in a purse,
I would be the best of heroes,
I would become a nurse. ❖

Jenn Garnand '11 looks on as daughter Lily reads her poem at the Luncheon.



A Cosmic Convergence

Not so long ago, in a galaxy not that far away... the Charity alumni were rocking the cosmos at our “Outta This World” Alumni Luncheon! The Sheraton in Metairie was the site for the celestial gathering and the accessories of the day were all variety of headbands spouting stars, moons and rocketships. Space shuttles and green baby aliens dotted the tables, and a “photo spot” featured a starry backdrop and galactic props.

The blessing was given by **Jenn Garnand '11** following her daughter Lily reading her own poem about wanting to be a nurse (*see page 2*).

Star Fleet Commander and President **Bryan Camus '12** was typically dashing in his Star Trek uniform. While lunch was being served, he talked about working at the new University Medical Center that replaced Charity Hospital. “The building has changed, but the spirit and caring has not changed!” he reports.

The **Class of 1957** celebrated their 60-year reunion and the twelve classmates in attendance were radiant as they received their Diamond Anniversary certificates.

It was a supernova for the **Class of 1967's** 50-year reunion with 36 classmates in attendance! These ladies were really the stars as they accepted their Golden Anniversary certificates.

Our stalwart and magnificent 40s regulars were there as well: **Elizabeth Vanderwall '42**, **Gloria Asprion '45**, **Marie Beaulieu '46**, and the **Class of 1949's** **RoseJeanne Buccola**, **Margaret Palmisano** and **Mary Singletary**.

Special Guests

Dr. Stanton McNeely, Delgado's Vice Chancellor for Institutional Advancement, joined us and said what a pleasure and honor it was to be there. He thanked everyone for their support of Charity's current students. He went on to congratulate the Alumni Association on investing \$35,000 for three endowment scholarships with the Delgado Foundation and announced the latest scholarship established by **Joyce Bonaventure Leissner '57** and her husband James in honor of their children Nathan and Laura. He emphasized that the Charity spirit will live on indefinitely through these scholarships for nursing students, and assured us that we have his commitment to preserve Charity School of Nursing.

John Batty, co-author of *Voices of Angels: Disaster Lessons from Katrina Nurses* gave a slide presentation of photos of Charity Hospital during and after Hurricane Katrina. One of the many haunting images was a bedsheet signed by all the nurses, doctors and staff as they were finally being evacuated after many harrowing days following the storm. John sold copies of his book with proceeds benefitting current Charity students. He also paid tribute with a moment of silence for two “nurse angels” who passed away in recent months: his friend and co-author **Gail Tumulty** and **Sister Josephine Cusimano**, former DON at Charity Hospital.

School Report

Dr. Cheryl Myers, Executive Dean of the School of Nursing, was out of town and could not join us for the luncheon, but **Patrick Brady '83** presented her report. (*You can read the Dean's Report on page 7.*)

Election Results

Patrick Reed '90, Nominating Chair, explained that ballots were →

Right: Thirty-six members of the Class of 1967 celebrated 50 years.





From top, left to right: the **Class of 1957**;
Kay Kenney '76 and her mother **Marie**

Beaulieu '46; **Marjorie Remes '95** and her daughter **Katie Remes '16**; **Lena Porche '62**, **Suzy Andry '59**, Lena's daughter **Pamela Porche**; and **Lisa Washington '82**.



mailed in the Fall 2016 *Alumni News* and announced the results of the election as follows: President-Elect - **Patrick Brady '83**; Treasurer - **Ursula Allain '65**; Nominations Chair - **Emily Ovalle '13**; Board Members - **Charlene Berger '79**, **Alice Brady '64**, and **Amber Stokes '13**. The newly elected officers came forward for their oath of office, and began their official duties.

Costume Contest

Interplanetary relations were cordial among the sci-fi characters vying for the best costume. **Katie Remes '16** came as Buzz Lightyear, and **Christina Palmisano '49** (daughter-in-law of **Margaret Palmisano '49**) made her own "Outta This World" t-shirt. **Amber Stokes '13** and family all came in Star Wars gear - and her daughter **Adeline Stokes** took the prize as R2D2, and won some



space-age rocket bookends.

Drawings & Door Prizes

The 50/50 drawing collected \$462 with \$231 going to the Alumni Association and \$231 going to winner **Bonnie Williams '67**. Bonnie immediately donated her winnings to support current Charity students! A beautiful statue of a mother pelican feeding her chicks, signed by the artist, was won by a delighted **Gregory Jacob '83**. Happy alumni scurried to pick up door prizes when their names were called.

After **Cindy Beniger '68** led us in a rousing chorus of the Alma Mater, Bryan urged everyone to attend the Fall Alumni Breakfast on September 23 where we will be →



celebrating the '70s and '7s! He thanked everyone for attending, with a special thank you to Bonnie for donating her winnings to the students!

Time is relative - our days at Charity seem eons ago, but our friendships don't! Back down on earth, we look forward to our next adventure this coming fall! ❖



Left to right, top to bottom:
Patrick Reed '90, Nick and Diane Cicero '70; Paulette Landry '67 and Cassandra Hite '67; Amber Stokes '13; students Mary Billiot, Brooke Troxclair and Deb Ursin; Joycelyn Jeansonne '78 and Patrick Brady '83; Bryan Camus '12 and Dr. Stanton McNeeley.



CASN Members Primed for Success

By Brooke Troxclair '17

I write to you on behalf of the Charity Association of Student Nurses (CASN) in gratitude of your continued support of the student body at Charity School of Nursing Delgado Community College. My name is Brooke Troxclair and I was the President of CASN for the Spring 2017 semester. I am a recipient of the Sally Cooper Scholarship and was one of the ten attendees with CASN to the National Student Nurses Association (NSNA) Convention held April 5 through 9 in Dallas, Texas. I am also a Charity School of Nursing Graduate with the Class of May 2017!

Through my many semesters at Charity, I have experienced the presence of the Alumni Association on campus and how you continually support the student body. From the scholarships, to donations and grants, you allow students the opportunity to enhance our experiences during our journey through nursing school. You are always present to offer a simple smile or even a few words of encouragement to let us know that you support our efforts and share our dream for us to become registered nurses. We look up to you, we aspire to be like you, we appreciate all that you do for us students!

The continued support and encouragement received from the Charity Alumni Association truly enhances the nursing school experience. Your contributions toward our



Above: The Charity nursing students at the NSNA Convention: **Kasey Hall** (CASN Breakthrough to Nursing Coordinator), **Kendall Weed** (CASN Treasurer), **Brittany Brignac** (Fall 2017 CASN President), **Deb Ursin** (CASN Guest Speaker Coordinator), **Cinden Skalos**, **Heidi Fleckinger** (CASN Vice-President), **Lindsay McDaniel**, **Brooke Troxclair** (outgoing CASN President), **Brandi Borden** (Fall 2017 CASN Vice-President), and (*not pictured*) **Shelley Blanda**. Below: CASN members **Brandi Borden**, **Jacob Kindscher**, DCC Vice-Chancellor **Dr. Stanton McNeely**, **Desmetris Jones**, **Brooke Troxclair** and **Mary Billiot** at the Delgado College *Roast of the Town* at Harrah's Casino.

trip to the NSNA Convention allowed us to focus more on maximizing our opportunity rather than worrying about the finances of attending.

National Convention

During convention, students could attend focus sessions, participate in the House of Delegates, experience the Johnson & Johnson *Global Nursing* presentations, and attend a special training seminar. "The Career Center was very helpful in my creation of a nursing resume," **Deb Ursin '17** said of one of her memorable moments. "I got to learn more about the specialty I am interested in," stated **Kasey Hall**. Focus sessions attended included *How to Think Like a Nurse*, *Med Surg Made Easy*, and *Test Taking Strategies*, to name a few. **Cinden Skalos** says that she "learned so much information that I feel will really help me succeed in nursing school."

We also participated in voting in the House of Delegates on proposed resolutions supporting increased awareness of the deficiency in women's health in homeless and low socioeconomic communities and in support of incorporating compassion fatigue awareness into the scope of interprofessional education curricula. It is truly →



amazing to learn that as student nurses, we have a voice in proposing changes to the ever-evolving field of health care.

Lastly, three CASN convention-goers attended the Red Cross Disaster Certification and received certificates of completion. This will allow us to train with the Red Cross to respond to disasters as the need arises. "This trip was such a blessing," stated **Shelley Blanda**. We are all so grateful that the Alumni provided an opportunity for these experiences!

Events All Year

To update you on some of the events CASN has participated in this Spring 2017 semester, we have partnered with the Abdominal Aortic Association Outreach in participation with the free screening open to the public, aided in the medical tents at the Rock-N-Roll Marathon, provided tours of our amazing campus during CSN's Open House and the Delgado Day on City Park Campus. We have also volunteered at the Delgado's *Roast of the Town*, the DCC Fundraiser at Harrah's Casino. This event raises funds for DCC student scholarships and campus improvements.

We are so thankful for your continued support as we work towards achieving our goal of graduating from Charity and becoming RNs. We have been able to meet many of you through our participation in the alumni events, and you are a true inspiration. We love hearing of your experiences both at the School of Nursing and throughout your nursing careers. We hope to make you proud as we enter the field of nursing and work towards meeting the standards you have set for Charity Nurses. Thank you for all that you do and for your continued support of our journey. Please know that you are truly appreciated and greatly respected. ❖

CASN members at the Pinning Ceremony in December.



Dean's Report

By Cheryl Myers, PhD, RN

Executive Dean CSN Campus/Dean of Nursing

Spring Greetings from the School of Nursing! The students of the Charity program continue to inspire and amaze us in their quest to be a graduate of this esteemed program. In December 2016, one hundred and thirty-three proud graduates were set to pursue their dream of having a productive nursing career. This May, eighty-six new graduates joined the ranks of the Charity alumni.

We have a total of about 700 students in the RN, PN and CNA programs this spring. We received over 350 applications for the August 2017 class, but unfortunately, we cannot accommodate all qualified students. Our admissions staff works diligently with those who are not accepted to help them become stronger candidates for the next available class.

The release of state bond money for our new Nursing and Allied Health location is still on hold due to the current state budget issues. We are hopeful that we hear good news about this after the upcoming legislative session which ends in June.

Accreditation Visit

The Associate Degree in Nursing program had an accreditation site visit by the Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing (ACEN) from February 7-9. Despite the tornado that occurred during the first day of the visit and the fire alarms that sounded during the second day of the visit, the assessment went well! As part of the visit, a public forum was held to provide feedback on our program from the community. We thank all the alumni who attended to attest to the quality of our graduates. We will receive the final determination of our

accreditation status after the ACEN Board of Commissioners meets in July.

Your Role in Our Success

Your support of our students and the program is an integral part of our success. Thank you for supporting our hospitality efforts for the accreditation site visit and for the generous awarding of over \$6300 in student scholarships this February. Through your donations, ten members of the Charity Association of Student Nurses were able to attend the National Student Nurses Association convention in Dallas in April. We appreciate the opportunities your support provides our students to be successful.

Wishing each of you a safe, restful summer! ❖

Woman in White Came to the Aid of Her Classmates

By Peter Finney, Jr.

Reprinted with permission from
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Yes, she stood out.

The uniform dress code in college normally consists of blue jeans, sneakers that on a good day actually match and the last clean T-shirt pulled from among the towels, wrinkled, in the dryer. Socks are optional. Comfort is king.

When Sister Servant of **Mary Miriam Guadalupe Rivera Martinez** showed up for classes at the Delgado Community College Charity School of Nursing three years ago, she naturally wore the bleached, crisp white habit and sparkling white shoes that have been the trademark of her community of nuns who keep prayerful, overnight vigil at the bedside of the terminally ill.

For more than a century, the Servants of Mary have been there literally in a family's darkest hours, allowing caregivers to sleep through the night while the nuns attend to the palliative care of their loved ones.

"God's mission for me is to be at the bedside of my patients, bringing peace, love and care," said Sister Miriam, a native of Ocotlan, Mexico.

That's why the 32-year-old nun, smiling and gleaming in her white habit, showed up for classes at Delgado-Charity eager to work toward an associate's degree in nursing. When she received her nursing pin along with 132 other members of the Delgado-Charity class in December, Sister Miriam was the first member of her order since Hurricane Katrina to complete the program.

"I know that it is God's gift, because it is for him," Sister Miriam said. "All the effort and all the sacrifices are for the Lord. Just as I'm going to be caring for him (through her patients), he cared for me during this time."

Compassion and Kindness

While Sister Miriam will dispense that physical and spiritual care for the rest of her life, there's another, hidden story. Through her daily presence on the Delgado campus, several of her classmates and professors said the woman in white transformed their lives with her random acts of charity.

"Her classmates were drawn to her," said **Dr. Cheryl Myers**, executive dean of the Charity School of Nursing. "I think it was her compassion. She was always enthusiastic and encouraging. She kind of took them



Sister Miriam (center) at the 2017 Alumni Luncheon with **Mary Singletary '49 (left)** and **Saundra Owens Robert '56** who fund the Sister Camilla Scholarship each semester.

all under her wing, and I know she helped more than one of them get out of school."

Gabriela Ojeda, 25, said she first noticed Sister Miriam taking nursing classes at Delgado over their first two semesters together, but their relationship was not much more than a courteous "Hi" and "Bye."

"When I first saw Sister it impressed me because I honestly didn't know that sisters could go to nursing school," Ojeda said.

But in the third semester, the coursework got more intense, and Ojeda, a Catholic, and classmate **Ninfa Rodriguez**, a Baptist, approached Sister Miriam about forming a study circle outside of class. Most of the study sessions took place on campus, but more often than not, Sister Miriam, with the permission of her superior, invited her classmates to come to the Servants of Mary convent on Perlita Street in Gentilly to study in the sisters' library.

A Place of Peace

"I've been to convents before, but this one was very neat and the sisters were very sweet," Ojeda said. "I used to tell Sister Miriam I would rather study at the convent than at school because I felt very peaceful. The sisters used to tell us there was food there and we were welcome to eat. When we got tired of being in the library, we would go out to this huge backyard and walk and read so our minds could change. All of our classmates were surprised when we told them we studied at the convent."

Their study time always began and ended with a prayer and words of encouragement from Sister Miriam.

“She always told us we have to have faith and trust in God,” Ojeda said. “I was doing terribly, and I was almost to the point where I was failing the semester, and everything seemed so hopeless. When you study so hard for a test and don’t pass, it brings you down. But she was constantly saying, ‘We need to trust God. We need to have faith.’ With Sister, it was always, ‘We can do it. We can do it.’ She told us before we took our test, ‘Guys, I have prayed to God and told him this is what we want and this is what we are here for – to serve people. Our heart is in this for you.’”

Even beyond their small study circle, Sister Miriam was a magnet who seemed to attract the anxious and the hope-deprived. She began recording every class lecture digitally, and she would send the electronic file to any student who asked for it. A professor met her in the stairway one day and asked her to pray for her daughter.

“She was always telling us, ‘I have to go meet up with this lady in the third level because she needs help – she’s failing,’” Ojeda said. “We would ask her, ‘Sister, how are you going to do it?’ because we knew as a sister she has a schedule where she has to pray at certain times and eat at certain times.”

She found the time.

When **Adam Maggio**, another Charity nursing student, asked to join the study circle in his final semester, the group welcomed him warmly. Maggio was shocked to find out that he was going to a convent to study.

“Nursing school is a very stressful time, and no one really knows what you’re going through except your classmates,” Maggio said. “There were times during the semester that she was there for me, just sending me prayer booklets or just saying she was praying for me before a test.”

Connections

After their successful commencement, the entire class celebrated a Mass of Thanksgiving at St. Joseph Church on Tulane Avenue, set up by Sister Miriam. It was there that Maggio’s dad Dennis put “two and two together.”

After the Mass, when Dennis saw Sister Miriam walking in her white habit among the Charity graduates, he told his son a story: These were the same nuns who had kept overnight vigil at the house of Adam’s grandfather Joseph, watching over him in his final days. Joseph Maggio died on St. Valentine’s Day in 2009.

Dennis Maggio was so touched by the sisters’ overwhelming kindness he gave them a fig tree to plant in their backyard.

Without ever having realized it, Adam Maggio had studied beneath that fig tree. ❖



As a student at Charity, Sister Miriam received the Sister Camilla Gaudin Scholarship and the Margaret Palmisano Alumni Graduation Award. In May 2017, she received a new assignment from her order. “I’m being sent to serve and help in our Hospital in Newbury Park, CA: Mary Health of the Sick Convalescent and Nursing Hospital. Our sisters run this hospital and they need a RN. It will be a challenge, but I know I am in God’s hands and He has always given me the grace to respond to his calling. It is God’s Will.”

The following poem was shared by Sister Miriam with her classmates at their graduation banquet.

A Poem

By Sister Miriam Rivera Martinez ‘16

With boundless joy and great enthusiasm
each of us one day came to realize and believed
that our lives had a special plan and purpose
that was worthy of working for and somehow achieved.

A long and difficult Journey was awaiting
for each of us to set out on and faithfully pursue.
And great was the conviction that burned in our hearts:
No matter how difficult, we were going to get through.

“Registered Nurse” was the common goal we shared.
The path was rough and quite heavy was our load.
But we were strengthened and encouraged on the way
in love

by those who guided and helped us along the road.

CHARITY was the home that welcomed us at the end.
The still small Voice had led each of us there
where the call was answered and forged through
hard work

and priceless experiences that we have all shared.

We’ve had to leave behind many pleasures on the way.
We know our families and friends have sacrificed, too.
But how great is the prize that awaits us at the end -
one worth any price that must be paid, it is true.

For our lives will reflect the great treasure we gained.
The QUALITY of service we give will be beyond
compare.

“Charity Nurses,” with courage go forth
on the journey!

Share with others your love and
COMPASSIONATE CARE!

We’ve competed well. We’ve finished the race,
and the best we will strive always to be,
raising high the name we bear and always
will share,

the one who prepared and inspired us –
CHARITY! ❖

Members of Note

SUSTAINING MEMBERS

Gloria Redmond Ashman ‘48
Sherrill Hooper Millard ‘50
Rowena Smith Christensen ‘51
Celina Machin Haynie ‘51
Betty Ogea Moore ‘51
Hazel MacKillican Wilson ‘52
Marijean Martin Pruett ‘54
Rita Jo Neary Ellsworth ‘55
Jean Altice Blake ‘58
Esther Ogea Doucet ‘60
Joan Arceneaux Levasseur ‘60
Frances Petho Aponte ‘61
Joan Bero ‘63
Barbara Johnson Roger ‘63
Dorothy Russell Staggs ‘63
Penny Kistler Tolchin ‘63
Geraldine Bourgeois Daigle ‘64
Janettè Foy Brown ‘64
Judith Wellman Quigley ‘64
Estelle LeBlanc Rome ‘64
Linda Sue Grimme Fontenot ‘65
Susan Nebel Nielson ‘66
Beverly Poche Chapoton ‘67
Jean Hageney Houin ‘67
Karen Moulliet ‘67
Peggy Portie Parigi ‘67
Betty Schweitzer Touns ‘67
Louanna Cardinale Whiddon ‘67
Dr. Marelle Yongue ‘67
Barbara “Bobbi” Bonner Folse ‘68
Charlotte Arras ‘71
Marian Foret Offner ‘71
Jo Ann Rizzutto ‘71
D. Paxson Barker ‘72
Rosalie Parenton Vincent ‘72
Dennis and Lynel Pinkozie ‘73
Wilda Taylor ‘73
Mary Iannazzo Trosclair ‘73
Susan Duhon ‘74
Nancy O’Pry Gentry ‘74
Charlene White Persich ‘74
Mary Susan Le Compte Farrar ‘75
Julie M. Joyce ‘75
Vicky P. Kent ‘75
Maureen Connelly Mayeux ‘75
Barbara McClees ‘75
Joseph Nigliazzo, Jr. ‘75
Graciela Pinto-Leyva ‘75
Jeannette Milligan Saal ‘75
Jan Carrio ‘76
Bryanne Murray Hamill ‘76
Lane E. McAlister Pierce ‘76
Myra Lee DiGange ‘77
Sheila Perrault Dahlgren ‘78
Marilyn Nola Hammett ‘78
Joycelyn Jeansonne ‘78
Sandra Tracy Bailey ‘79

William Borne ‘79
Vickie Morrow Gibert ‘79
Cindy Tschrein Nuesslein ‘79
Karen DelValle Tampira ‘79
Claudette Boudreaux ‘80
Belinda Hutchinson Janeski ‘80
Cydney Trahans Begnaud ‘81
Elizabeth Kelly Carlini ‘82
Renee Rago Schuller ‘83
Patricia Dufrene ‘85
Elaine Riecke Bergeron ‘86
Gina West Ragland ‘86
Kevin Besse ‘91
Michael Harrison ‘92
Betty Trosclair Loumiet ‘92
Mitzi Ridgdell Arnold ‘93
Craig A. Cedotal ‘94
Penny Authement Schuler ‘94
Margaret Johnson Jackson ‘96
Brenda Shields Simmons ‘96
Elizabeth Scanlan Bowen ‘97
Lista Hank ‘97
Roxanne McNally ‘97
Cynthia Fernandez ‘10
Elaine Lauga ‘12
Danielle Chambers ‘14



BLUE RIBBON 2017

LaVerne Carter Stevenson ‘44
Peggy Allen Stevens ‘49
Martha Pang Chan ‘50
Mary Katherine Brune Mollere ‘52
Nancy Rooker Dorsa ‘53
Carolyn Turner Barker ‘54
Peggy Collum Brieser ‘55
Carolyn Bishop Castleman ‘58
Millicent Nash Vilmerding ‘58
Rosalie Nicolosi Collura ‘59
Rennie Clark Kaczorowski ‘59
Ethel Faciane Friend ‘60
Elizabeth Germain Guillot ‘60
Elizabeth Turberville Connor ‘62
Pamela Maycock Coulter ‘62
Phyllis Bourgeois Beeching ‘63
Lynne Gordon Cook ‘63
Madeleine Moreau Crawford ‘63
Yvonne Gauthier McGaha ‘63
Alice Chambers Brady ‘64
Kathryn Kirking Schmuellen ‘64
Elaine Moraus Wiltz ‘64
Susan Thibodeaux Grace ‘65
Kitty Eskridge Crawford ‘66
Yvonne Ellender Hawthorne ‘66
JoAnn Pierce Ligon ‘66
Janice Hudson Morrison ‘66
Elaine Ledoux Phares ‘66
Lynn Burton Rosenblatt ‘66
Paulette Gallant Gravois ‘67
Susan Theriot Gosnell ‘67
Mary Ellen Potier Hebert ‘67
Judith Watson Lastrapes ‘67

Ellen Inguagiato Olivier ‘67
Pamela Ragusa ‘67
Cynthia Mouret Schexnayder ‘67
Jacqueline Henry Terrell ‘67
Catherine Richard Verdone ‘67
F. Dianne Perdue Weber ‘67
Bonnie Glover Williams ‘67
Lana Collins Craig ‘68
Cynthia Hebert Liebel ‘68
Patricia Murphy Solomon ‘68
Earline Chauvin Watson ‘68
Patricia Darcy Weed ‘68
Mary Landry Bocz ‘69
Jane Bentel Duggan ‘69
Lorraine Fearheiley ‘69
Julia Simoneaux George ‘69
Myra Bascle Porche ‘69
Josie Bailey Stanga ‘69
Katherine Manuel Landreneau ‘71
Sarah Percy LeBlanc ‘71
Elaine Schiller Maguire ‘71
Joan Damon Simon ‘71
Nona Joyce DeRouen ‘72
Cherry Derbes Pfau ‘72
Susan Pye Stone ‘72
Madeline Cerniglia Totten ‘72
Myra Diaz Cheramie ‘73
Ginger O’Fleurty Broussard ‘74
Donna Vidrine Brown ‘74
Renee Ortego Doucet ‘75
Patricia Alley Aucoin Shannon ‘75
Guimar Goransson ‘76
Marion Sams Johnson ‘76
Beth Wininger Pesses ‘76
Perry Meche ‘77
Connie Bousquet ‘78
DeAnne Posseno Jewell ‘79
Katherine Doiron Killelea ‘79
Patricia Lane ‘79
Robert Martinez ‘79
Bonny McDonald McGee ‘79
Jeanette Robinson ‘80
Karen Jameson Rush ‘80
John S. Bertucci ‘81
Nancy Allebone Capponi ‘81
Michelle Bily Cousans ‘81
Melissa Manuel Deshotels ‘81
Cheri Browning Oser ‘81
James Craig ‘82
Karen Freitag Craig ‘83
Cynthia Larmeu Edwards ‘83
Lynda Bishop Gaber ‘83
Ellen Gautreaux ‘83
Patricia Carimi Poolson ‘83
Ross Cunningham ‘84
Mary Sue Williams Sargo ‘85
Rosemary DiMarco-Rainey ‘86
Marie Joseph-Brown ‘88
Elaine Major ‘90
Mary Ann Noland Lovell ‘91
Kim Keith Chatman ‘92
Tonia Chiasson Chauvin ‘92
Frances Loeske ‘92
Daniel McCarthy Hamilton ‘93
Ann Marie Pizeck ‘93

Victoria Monte Hammond ‘94
Regina Danner ‘97
Susan McWalters Rowell ‘98
Nancy Conners Mueller ‘03
Beverly Rainey ‘05
Susan Wentz ‘11
Ashley Bickham ‘14
Kimberly Dunn ‘14

SILVER STAR 2017

Geneva Dufour Waters ‘48
Dolores Marsh Alford ‘51
Marion Thibodaux Gatti ‘54
Lucy Arnold Willard ‘59
Beryl Ann Forgey Olhasso ‘60
Joyce Allen Urode ‘60
Marilee Keating Phillips ‘64
Martha Meaux Genin ‘65
Susan Thibodeaux Grace ‘65
Constance Kennedy Proctor ‘65
Jo Ann Pierce Ligon ‘66
Lorraine Andry Penrod ‘66
Conchetta Uli Walters ‘67
Claudia Haller Gordon ‘68
Brenda Crump Trosclair ‘68
Bonnie Hensley-Mowe ‘70
Lucille LeBlanc O’Regan ‘70
Pamela Elias Welsh ‘70
Camille Bourgeois Whittaker ‘70
Christine Hurley Carbon ‘71
Dianne Theriot Clavin ‘71
Diane Craft Angelico ‘72
Deborah Edwards Bolotte ‘72
Mary Doucet Hains ‘72
Bonnie Arton ‘73
Stephanie Laws ‘73
Jacqueline Porth Owen ‘73
Diane Cormack ‘74
Olander Belfield Holloway ‘74
Connie Treille Brown ‘75
Donna Blanchard Landry ‘75
Kay Beaulieu Kenney ‘76
Robin Napoli Bowman ‘83
Patrick Reed ‘90
Anne McCutchen Silverstein ‘98
Bryan Camus ‘12

SISTER STANISLAUS 2017

S. Joanne Philbrook Newton ‘56
Shirley McTaggart Reece ‘60
Charlotte Voinche Guinn ‘64
Martha Meaux Genin ‘65
Mary Ann Popper Doherty ‘67
Carolyn M. Bartsch ‘70
Patti Rouchon Burcham ‘70
Gayle Guerin Fertitta ‘70
Kathy Garrard Rolston ‘71
Charlene R. Berger ‘79
Renee Bridget Guidry ‘87



Alumni Notes

Heather Beaujeaux Flynn '03 (*Covington, LA*): "I love reading the alumni newsletters and seeing all the familiar faces and the changes that go on at Charity!"

Karen D'Antonio '89 (*Covington, LA*): "I'm here at Charity to pick up my daughter from Ultrasound School. This brings back so many memories. I am so proud to say that I am a Charity grad. When you say that to others, they respect it. Most memorable time was caring for a prisoner in leather restraints with police guards present. We learned a lot here and made lots of friends."



Class of 1912

Patti Taylor Lapeyre '86 (*New Orleans*): "So many wonderful memories. I lived on the 7th floor of the dorm - '7th Heaven' - with a close group of girls. I lifeguarded at the pool and met a lot of interesting people doing that. A lot of great memories of the Big C. I worked on the 4th floor center (SICU) and could never find a better group of nurses, friends, family. My grandmother, **Agnes Noonan Taylor**, also graduated from Charity as well as her sister **Cecile Noonan**. While visiting the school recently, I went into the library and saw the photo of the **Class of 1912** (above) in the display case - and my grandmother and her sister were in it. It really moved me - as did being back in the building itself. My grandmother is on the first row, second from the right, and her sister is next to her, third from right."

Carol Cox Zamjahn '85 (*Folsom, LA*): "My mother was a CHSN student and my father was a LSU Med School student. They met at Charity Hospital, and when I came to visit for the first time, I had to see the exact place where they met. I always wanted to come here and when I got accepted I was thrilled. My time here has so many wonderful memories. I worked in the accident room at

Charity Hospital as a tech while I was in school. Those stories would make a book! What I can say is that all the education and experience I received here completely prepared me for my life as a nurse."

Patricia Carimi Poolson '83 (*Kenner, LA*): "Wow, how time flies! So many fond memories of the Daughters of Charity and the values they instilled in me as a RN. My education here was priceless! Over the years, I was fortunate to work with many nurses and, by far, the Charity nurses stood out and were so knowledgeable. I would not have changed a thing in my nursing life."

Ginny Graves Clark '69 (*Alta Loma, CA*): "Thank you so much, Charity! I graduated in 1969. Sister Blanche was here, and Doris Burvant. So many wonderful days. Some stories shouldn't be told - Joe's and the Quarter, sneaking up the stairs, etc. Just had breakfast with an old roommate. Looking forward to seeing everyone for our 50-year reunion in 2019!"

Earline Watson '68 (*Sugar Land, TX*): "Please send one of your wooden CHSN pin ornaments to me. I was heartbroken several years ago to discover I had lost my nursing pin. It just wasn't on my uniform when I got home. I went back to work and looked everywhere and put up notes on the bulletin boards, but I never did find it. Now that I am retired, the ornament will suffice."

Martha Meaux Genin '65 (*New Orleans, LA*): "I am very humbled by the honor of a Charity Pin being awarded in my name. I feel I don't deserve this as I simply took what Charity taught me to care for my patients. My hope is to help give aspiring nurses lacking finances, as I was, the opportunity to receive the BEST nursing school education and have the confidence and rewarding experiences I've had in nursing. Even though we have sadly lost our BIG CHARITY, the source of unlimited educational opportunities, and our Sister Stanislaus DORM which created abiding friendships that still exist after 50+ years, CHARITY NURSES must continue. With love and gratitude, I am a Proud Charity Nurse!"

Estelle LeBlanc Rome (*Baton Rouge, LA*) and **Marilee Keating Phillips** (*Louisville, KY*), **Class of 1964**, traveled with their spouses to visit their friend and classmate **Judith Wellman Quigley** in Irvine, California. They had a fantastic time, and wanted to find a special way to thank Judith and her husband James for their wonderful hospitality. Estelle and Marilee had read about Charity alumni **Kassidy Prestenbach '11** in the

Continued on page 13

Members of Note

Continued from page 10

*The following were received after
The White Cap 2016*

BLUE RIBBON 2016

Joan Burgess LeBlanc '57
Patricia Higgins Russell '58
Rennie Clark Kaczorowski '59
Elva Keller Kimbrough '60
Grace Shaw-Broussard '61
Antoinette Keating Sykes '61
Pamela Maycock Coulter '62
Lynne Gordon Cook '63
Peggy Begnaud Johns '63
Brenda Rabren Putman '63
Jacqueline Blanchard '66
Janice Hudson Morrison '66
Angela "Angie" Foster Pruner '66
Carol Hoskins Stacy '66
Joan Musacchia Taylor '66
Elaine LeMoine Wenzig '66
Susan Theriot Gosnell '67
Mary Landry Bocz '69
Debra Chaudoir Belgard '72
Cynthia Bourgeois Wagley '72
Christine Blanchard Higdon '74
Patricia Aucoin Shannon '75
Kathy Roth Jones '76
Catherine Calmette-Parker '77
Chris Boughton '80
Ann Retz Dean '81
Maria Green Delahoussaye '81
Cynthia Shaw Hallam '83
Linda G. Brown '85
Ann Retz Dean '93
Victoria Monte Hammond '94
Bridgette Vicknair '95
Elaine Dantin '09
Paulette Guidry Lill '14

SILVER STAR 2016

Peggy Collum Briesse '55
M. Delores Woodcock Carter '56
Dixie Berlage Fabre '64
Earline Chauvin Watson '68
Francine Taaffe Dyer '70
Gayle Guerin Fertitta '70
Kathleen Saucier Moreau '71
Deborah Edwards Bolotte '72
Cathryn Parsons Smith '78
Nancy Coleman Coffey '85
Estelle Collins Vincent '85

SISTER STANISLAUS 2016

Paula Brewington '69
Ginny Graves Clark '69
Roxanna Fabre Legacy '76 ❖



2016-17 Outstanding Donors

*Gifts of \$100 or more to Restricted Funds
since The White Cap 2016*

Joyce Bonaventure Leissner '57 and
Jim Leissner Endowed Scholarship
created in memory of their children
Nathan and Laura

Leona Kruebbe and Dr. Gerard Hilbert
Endowed Scholarship
Catherine and Elbridge Barker, Jr.
Thomas Hilbert
Vic and Jeanne Lazzari
Karen Pandolfi
Karl and Kristen Sirotkin

Alumni Scholarship Fund
Geneva Dufour Waters '48
Margaret Robichaux Elliott '49
Madeline Tolson Markwood '52
Julia Schomaker '52 *in memory of*
Enzell Scott Pennington '51
Nancy Rooker Dorsa '53
Sydney Wood Womack '57
Sharon Mumbleau '59 *in memory of*
Eleanor Crowder Spence '59
Barbara Pitre Philipps '61
Vicky Mallory Miller, Bill Miller
and their children Doug and Brandi
in memory of Sandra Mallory Deaton '63
Sylvia Obregon Moffitt '64
Martha Meaux Genin '65
Roberta Purvis Bartee '66
Judith Monell Holbert '66
Jean Barga Gordon '67
Bonnie Glover Williams '67
Maureen LeBlanc Morel '68
Patricia Smart, faculty

Sr. Camilla Gaudin, D.C. Scholarship
Mary Smith Singletary '49
Sandra Owens Robert '56
The Class of 1956
Connie Bousquet '78

Gloria Ashman '48 Scholarship
Gloria Redmond Ashman '48

Julia Spratt '61 Scholarship
Marilyn Schultz Connor '61
Barbara Pitre Philipps '61
Carolyn Bartsch '70

Jeansonne Scholarship
Kevin J. Jeansonne, MD

Ruth Wallace '45 Pin Fund
Dr. Maxine Blackmon Jones '59

Kirk LeVasseur '79 Pin Fund
Charlene R. Berger '79

Rita Burrows Suhor Pin Award
In memory of faculty member
Pat Smart's mother
OADN
Donna Meyer

Arthur Joseph DeLima, Jr. Pin Fund
Michelle DeLima '87

Student Emergency Fund:
Catastrophic Grants
Joan Bero '63

Student Emergency Fund
Margaret Robichaux Elliott '49
Betty Ruth Wilson Guin '49
Nancy Rooker Dorsa '53
Betty Chalk Putman '54
Cecile Ginger Andry '58
Peggy Begnaud Johns '63
Ann Sneed Sorrells '65
Carolyn M. Bartsch '70

Student Activities Fund
Margaret Oalman Palmisano '49

CASN Convention Travel
Joan Arceneaux LeVasseur '60
Jan Carrio '76
John Batty

Art & Archives
Carole Saladino Radelat '53

Multiple Funds
Sheila Mitchell Feigley '53
Katherine Eskridge Crawford '66
Barbara Bonner Folse '68
Carolyn M. Bartsch '70 ❖

Alumni Notes

Continued from page 11

Alumni News, and they decided to give donations in Judith's name to assist Kassidy. After suffering from septic shock, Kassidy lost both legs and part of her hands to amputation. The specialized prosthetic hands she needs to take care of her kids and resume her nursing career are not covered by her insurance or Medicaid. The generous gifts from Estelle and Marilee will help. Thanks to Judith for being such a great hostess!

Alpha Gay Gardner '63 (*Watsonville, CA*): Alpha sent us her 1962 yearbook. "My friend **Sue Tribble Pruyn** gave me this yearbook after finding out that mine had been burned up in a fire. I think this is my last piece of memorabilia. I'm happy that you want it."

LTC Rosemary Hathorn Holmes '62, USAF (ret.) (*Zephyr, TX*): "Another year has passed and I continue to volunteer in the ICU at Brown Wood Regional Hospital. And every night I pray for being able to graduate from Big Charity! I always had a good job, and also was active duty in the Air Force and Reserves for 22 years! I stay in frequent touch with my classmate **Patsy Hebert McClendon '62**, and we visit occasionally. She lives in Houston and we're a six-hour drive apart. I've had the afghan for a couple of years and I love it! Also love receiving the Alumni newsletters!!"

Linda Eccles '61 (*Mobile, AL*): "The *Alumni News* was wonderful. I miss those happy days and even more when I receive the newsletters. You made my Christmas even happier by sending the 1960 yearbook I ordered. If you could find a 1961 book for me that would complete everything! I lost mine in a flood. I loved Charity so much - some of my happiest times were there!"

Rosalind Goodbread Baldwin '57 (*Baton Rouge, LA*): "I watched the Big Charity DVD, and it brought back all the wonderful memories of my training in those days 60 years ago which paved the way for my future in nursing."

Nancy Mynihan Comish '57 (*Starkville, MS*): Nancy brought her cape to give to us when she visited New Orleans for Mother's Day. "Thank you for all the help getting my cape to Charity. Seeing Big Charity was heart-breaking but brought back great memories. The Delgado building is really nice. Everyone was so gracious to us."

Joan Macpherson Guccione '57 (*Metairie, LA*): "I made so many new and lasting friendships and lots of unforgettable memories at Charity. What a great, life-changing experience those years at Charity were for all of us!"

Mattie Englis Sherrod '57 (*Thomasville, GA*): "I will be eternally grateful to the nuns who taught us in nursing school. I always felt prepared and knowledgeable about patient care after my intense training with them. It is fun to think that all three years of schooling only cost \$250. Many things have changed since then. The integration of computers has been good for organization, but it seems like less time is spent with patients. After graduation, I worked at the Doctors and Nurses Infirmary in town, then moved to Indianapolis with my husband. There we started a church and I did private duty nursing at Methodist Hospital. We moved to Georgia and I took a position at John D. Archibold Memorial Hospital. I was made night nursing supervisor in 1986 and worked in that position until 2016. I had two strokes which unfortunately have slowed me down, but I had a 47.5 year career. I very much enjoyed my work and taking care of so many people over the years. I had two wonderful children who both became registered nurses. And I have visited every state in the U.S. twice. I wish I could have attended the 60 year reunion, but I was there in spirit!"

Marion Gatti '54 (*Metairie, LA*): "Just a note to thank you for the 'fattest' *Alumni News*. I really did enjoy reading all the stories about Old Charity. Thanks!"

RoseJeanne Buccola '49 (*Destrehan, LA*): "Experience is the best teacher! I only subscribe to the Sunday paper and, one Sunday morning in April, I read the obituary for one of my classmates, **Betty Holmes Tafaro '49**. Services were scheduled for Monday at 9:30am. I had a dental appointment for the same time, and there was no way to cancel on a Sunday, or at the last minute on Monday, so I couldn't attend. I called later to explain to Betty's son and offer my condolences, but Lesson Learned! At my age, never make doctor appointments on a Monday! Seriously, I also suggest that all graduates put a classmate contact, or the Alumni Association, on a *To Be Notified* list in case of moving, becoming infirm, or death. Your family may not think or know how to contact your nursing school friends."

Billie Tuohy '49 (*Abita Springs, LA*): "Billie retired after a 66-year nursing career. Born and raised in Provencal, Louisiana, in Natchitoches Parish, she entered nursing school at the end of WWII, graduating in 1949. Ms. Tuohy has cared for very diverse types of patients including veterans at the VA hospital and children at a developmental center. In 1985, Billie began working in home health care, the field from which she retired in December. She acknowledges many changes in the nursing field, most notably the transition to electronic records and computerized charting. As her greatest

Continued on page 15

Goodbyes

Ida Mae Witty '38: "My precious mother, Ida Mae Witty, graduated from Charity in 1938. Her passion was nursing and she worked as a nurse from 1938-1994. She worked in the health department as a nurse and administrator for many years. After she retired, she still loved nursing and didn't want to sit at home. She started relieving the DONs in different nursing homes in the local towns for several years. She then started teaching Certified Nursing Assistant classes at a nearby technical school. She did that until health issues forced her to quit. She was a young 80 years old when that happened. Thanks for the memories!" - *Carolyn Howell Doyle*

Sherrill Hooper Millard '50: "Thank you for sending the photos of my mom from the yearbook. They are great, and exactly what I was looking for. My family and I are so appreciative. We had no pictures of her as a nurse or from her nursing school days. Mom always talked about her time at Charity. It meant a lot to her - as did the nursing profession. She was so proud of it." - *Roy Millard*



Brenda Boyne Green '63 passed away on January 23, 2017. We heard from many of her classmates.

"Our friend Brenda lost her fight against cancer in the wee hours of this morning. Her son Scott told me that she always talked of her time at Charity and how much she loved it and the friends she made there. Brenda was a lovely lady, a beautiful soul, a dear friend and one of God's best. We will miss her." - *Peggy Tolchin '63*

"I visited with Brenda two weeks ago while she was in the hospital. My last memory will be her laughing when I told Scott: *What happened at school stayed at school!* She fought a valiant battle 'til the end. I will miss my friend." - *Rose Gough '63*

"I'll remember her as our yearbook described her: The highest achievement is the service to others." - *Madeleine Crawford '63*

"Brenda was lovely and kind all the time. She set such a good example!" - *Joan Bero '63*



"I know Brenda is at peace and resting in the arms of Jesus. I was so glad to see her at the 50th reunion of our class. She had such a beautiful and contagious smile and personality." - *Yvonne McGaha '63*

"I am especially saddened because Brenda and I shared some cancer stories at the 50th reunion. She was always concerned for the well-being of others. Maybe she will leave a crack in the gates of heaven for us." - *Gayle Miller '63*

We also heard from Brenda's daughter-in-law Cori: "It was very important to Brenda that we mail her cape to the Alumni Association to be auctioned off to help the current students. She wrote the address on her will to be sure you got it. I think she'd love to somehow be part of the auction. She was disappointed she didn't find her cap but if we find anymore of her nursing school items, I will be sure to send them in. God bless." Just as Brenda wished, we will auction her cape at the September Breakfast.

Marcia Crocker Ray '65: "Our class, known as 9/10/65, celebrated our 50th Anniversary in October 2015. Marcia honored us with her presence, even though she had been diagnosed with metastatic cancer just before our reunion. Her husband Jerry encouraged her to attend since she had been looking forward to it so much. She told no one at the reunion because she did not want to put a damper on a happy occasion. This tells you a little bit about the wonderful and caring person she was. She did not tell me until she had returned home. I told her she deserved an Academy Award because no one guessed what she was going through. She looked the best of any of us! She passed away in August 2016. In honor and memory of my dear classmate and friend, I decided to give graduation pins to two seniors who could not afford them." - *Ursula Allain '65*

Judy Ann Taylor '00: "My mother-in-law, Judy Ann Taylor, was a Charity graduate. She was in the class of May 2000. She worked for the Tenet Hospital System in Gretna, and Wynhoven Nursing Home in Marrero. She passed away early in the morning on April 27. I am a Charity nursing student and I had a test that morning. I am almost positive she was there..."



It's been hard and I am studying for finals as I write this. I know you usually put obituaries in the newsletter and I especially want this to be in there because I am about to graduate on May 15 and she was so excited and looking forward to being there."

- *Dawn Brassette '17*

In Memorium

We publish the names of those alumni who have passed away as we learn of them, with their graduation year and date of death, if known. Farewell to these friends:

Marion Tauzin Dunn '39 (10/26/16)
 Alvis Covington Stafford '41 (1/29/17)
 Ida Lee Shaddinger Jurisich '45 (12/27/16)
 Rose Mary Martine Coerver '46 (6/27/16)
 Effie Moss Comeaux '46 (4/21/16)
 Ione Bowen Guillot '46 (1/15/17)
 Elsie Mae Buquet Anderson '47 (1/5/07)
 Genevieve Rhorer King '47 (11/29/14)
 Esther Stern Metz '47 (12/11/16)
 Doradeese Poirrier Rook '47 (2/8/17)
 Betty Holmes Tafaro '49 (3/29/17)
 Lucille Melancon Dolbear '50 (1/19/17)
 Nina Pauline Whelchel Johnson '51 (9/2/16)
 Rubie Monroe Harris '53 (10/12/15)
 Dorothy Willes Childers '55 (2/18/17)
 Kathryn Joyce Ginder Crochet '56 (11/14/16)
 Brenda Boyne Green '63 (1/23/17)
 Wanda Helmer Nicholson Kendall '63 (7/24/16)
 Maureen E. Leblanc Morel '68 (5/20/17)
 Gwendolyn Dupuy Rizzuto '68 (2/9/17)
 Donna Gauthier Welsh '81 (11/26/16)
 Angelique Nolan '93 (1/24/17)
 Deborah Pellegrin Masilla '96 (12/7/16)
 Judy Ann Taylor '00 (4/27/17)
 Sister Josephine Cusimano (3/15/17)
 Karen Hilbert Pandolfi (5/20/17) ❖

Goodbyes

Continued from page 14

Sister Josephine Cusimano, former Director of Nursing at Charity Hospital, passed away in March at the age of 98. Born in New Orleans in 1918, Sister Josephine graduated from high school in 1934 and then joined the Daughters of Charity in St. Louis. She earned a bachelor's degree in nursing education and a master's degree in education before returning to New Orleans in 1979. She served as education coordinator at Charity Hospital before rising to Director of Nursing, and retired in 1998. After Hurricane Katrina she moved to Texas, returned to New Orleans in 2008, and continued her Ministry of Prayer at Chateau de Notre Dame until her death.

Karen Hilbert Pandolfi was the daughter of Leona Kruebbe Hilbert '46. A graduate of Duke University, Karen was a pediatric nurse, then later a public health visiting nurse. She lived for years in the northeast and loved hiking, biking, sailing, snowshoeing and cross country skiing. She biked from Maine to Florida and hitchhiked across the Sahara Desert. Karen battled chronic illness for the last 25 years of her life, but her determination in the face of adversity was an inspiration to all who knew her. Karen was a generous supporter of the Dr. Gerard and Leona Hilbert Scholarship created in memory of her parents at Charity School of Nursing, and her daughter Jennifer asked that contributions in Karen's memory be made to that scholarship fund. ❖

Alumni Notes

Continued from page 13

accomplishment, she mentions being awarded a *Great 100* recognition. Billie states, 'I always did what I thought was best at the time.' Her advice to other nurses is to 'take advantage of every opportunity you can to learn something new and helpful.'"

- Excerpted from The Examiner,
 Louisiana State Board of Nursing, 2016

"This photo (*below*) shows, left to right, my mother, **Catherine Philomena Carroll Serpas, Class of 1923**; **Sister Stanislaus Malone, D.C.**; my grandmother, **Clara Kelly Carroll, Class of 1914**; and my eldest sister, **Catherine Philomena Carroll Serpas**, in 1948 at my sister's Pinning Ceremony. My mother's maiden name was Carroll, and my sister had two middle names - Philomena Carroll - so as you can see, at my sister's graduation in 1948, their names were identical. My aunt, **Margaret Carroll Celli**, also graduated from Charity, in 1926." - *Al Serpas* ❖



Marion Goes to Nursing School in 1936

The Alumni Association was contacted by **Lanelle Dunn Hanke**, the daughter of **Marion Tauzin Dunn '39**.

"Please mention in the alumni newsletter that my mother Marion Dunn died at the age of 100+ on October 26, 2016. It's possible she was the last member of her class. I do know that her years at Charity were among the best memories she had."

Lanelle sent these delightful - and surprisingly timeless - excerpts from Marion's nursing school journal. The italics indicate Lanelle's comments:

Mom bought a Scholastic hardcover notebook and started her nursing school journal with a short history of her early life, ending with this: On September 4, my best friend Cora married J. A. Armstrong. I was bridesmaid. Then I left Biloxi and attended Perkinson Jr. College. That year was one of the happiest in my life – I made quite a few friends, I was a member of the school band, but, I'm ashamed to admit, was not much of a scholar. In the summer of '36 I had a chance to return to college and complete the year that would enable me to teach in the county schools. But I had, by that time decided that I didn't want to be a teacher. **I would be a nurse or nothing, so the fall of '36 found me enrolled in the Charity Hospital School of Nursing.** *Then she wrote in the notebook:* Marion Elizabeth Tauzin, Charity Hospital New Orleans and began her journal.

9/9/36

Spent most of the day shopping for things I needed. We walked a good deal 'cause we had to find things that not only suited me but also suited my pocket-book. I surely was glad when we finally got to the hospital and I was shown my room. Life in the nurses' home appears somewhat similar to that of college. I have two roommates, Lola Walker and Frances Hayes. Last night Lola and I went down to supper. We walked into the dining room and sat down. Nothing happened. Finally we caught onto the fact that we were to go get a tray and push it around and get it filled up and then sit down to eat. Boy, did we feel silly. I guess we'll have to live and learn.

9/10/36

6:30 we went in to see Sister Sylvia. She told us a few rules and assigned us the time to be physically examined. However they didn't get to examine all of us today and



"This is proud Marion with her Charity pin. She was a nurse, through and through, regardless of what she was doing."

- Lanelle Dunn Hanke

I was one of the ones who got left till the next day. Lola got a spell of home-sickness but I talked till she kinda got over it. We went up-town this evening and I bought some things I needed. We just got back from the show. "Swing-time" – Ginger Rogers and Fred Astaire at the Orpheum. It was grand. I kinda like it here. You are pretty much

your own boss. I might stick it out. Who knows???

9/13/36

Mom writes about spending the weekend with her grandparents, then: Got back to school about five minutes of ten, just in time to get undressed before lights out.

9/14/36

Two girls were shipped today. They got drunk Friday and Saturday nights both. It looks like one night would have been enough for them. My roommate, Lola, left this morning for home. She was so homesick there was no keeping her. Started in classes today. I find most of them interesting, but the words would choke a horse. I got my shoes today and I just wore them and now my feet are killing me.

9/15/36

Still I can say so far so good. It seems that anatomy is to be our hardest subject and I find it most interesting. I hope it will always be interesting. I wish I had an electric iron. I really need one. Perhaps in time I will be able to get one. Until then I'll do without. I do not like most of the girls up here. They are rather a snooty bunch. My instructors are nice and I think Dr. H. is extra nice. He is the house Dr. He doesn't make me feel so dumb. I always think, when I see some fellow acting so superior, that he was one day as dumb as I. Who knows but that I, in time, shall know as much as he?

9/16/36

Did not study any. Washed my hair and Frances set it for me. She sets hair real well. Then we talked till ten. That can't go on. No sir!

9/18/36

Had test – dunno if I passed – hope so. Went to see "Men in White." Clark Gable, Myrna Loy at the Liberty. Frances and I started out at 5:45 to get there for 6:00. I was dead sure the Liberty was on Canal St., so we went flying up

and down Canal Street but could find no Liberty Theater. Finally I asked a newsboy. Come to find out it was on St. Charles, four blocks from Canal. Just did get there in time to get in for 15 cents - otherwise 26 cents. Good show.

Mom's family lived in New Orleans and on the Mississippi Gulf Coast, so she got to go home more often than some. After one weekend she writes: Mamma (her grandmother) made me a little cake all by myself. Boy was it good. They treat me more like an honored guest than a relative. I'll sure have to be something great to live up to their expectations.

9/22/36

Saw body of dead man in lab today. Didn't exactly faint but didn't feel so hot for a good while after. Don't think I did so well on Hist. test. It was kinda tricky. It makes one feel so important when one can go right thru a crowd of people who are waiting to get in just by saying a few words to the guard. Must study hard tonite.

9/23/36

72 on History test. If I was in college I would say well and good, but 75 happens to be a pass here.

9/24/36

We will learn all about bandages this Saturday. "Rhythm on the Range" is at Globe Sat. Just can't miss it. Boy do I have to study tonight - I'll say! Anatomy and Hist test tomorrow. We got our uniforms today but they have to be laundered.

9/30/36

At last we have our whole uniform. We will be capped today. 9:00 a.m.

10/6/36

Sister Julia took all "Probs" on picnic to Huey P. Long's fish hatcheries at Lacombe, La. Really enjoyed myself. Hope we go again sometime.

10/8/36

Was all set to bathe patients but took temperatures instead. Was my first time on wards. I was kinda shaky. I'll get over it - I hope. Also saw woman with elephant foot - her foot was over twice the size of her normal foot. She had 5 toes. They resembled balls more than toes. The skin, though, was soft not hard & tough like elephant's. She was able to do all her own work even though she was handicapped so.

10/9/36

Gave patient a bath this morning. Aside from the fact that I forgot to remove pillows from under patient's head, everything was OK. I wasn't scared or anything. Went to show and saw James Dunn in "Two-Fisted Gentleman." Just can't resist show. Spend all my money.

10/10/36

Boy do my feet hurt - I mean! Frances and I walked to the French Market - went to Cathedral & thru museum. Then we walked out to river. After that we went to the end of Canal Street and took the ferry to Algiers. Then home

again to a good hot bath & bed. Oh boy!

10/22/36

Bought the cutest brown sweater tonight. Went to see Franchot Tone & Grace Moore in "The King Steps Out." Am now the proud possessor of 22 cents & no hopes of acquiring more.

11/9/36

Went on ward Friday, I mean Saturday. I liked ward duty real well. Sunday Sister Sylvia told me she wanted to see me. It was about my going to Protestant church. I still don't think it is wrong.

11/13/36

Had the best time in ages tonight. We were sitting in (room) 340 and Speig came down and got us to go see Sanders. There she was dressed in knee-stockings and shoes - a pair of the briefest panties and a long sleeved satin blouse. Of all the funny sights! Then we all invaded 342 and pulled the Honorable Miss Bowden out of bed.

After part of the gang dissolved the rest of us went down in the kitchen and ate the peaches that the cook had left. Boy were they good. We drank the peach juice with a dipper that had probably been used by rats as a playground. Then we went over to the library. If my pajamas had fallen I would have been socially embarrassed. I had on my uniform over my pajamas - I dressed in about 1½ minutes. But it was well worth the haste.

11/21/36

I surely hope I can go home for Thanksgiving. We have from Wed eve to Sun night off. But here I sit with 14 cents and no hopes of getting more.

12/29/36

Am really ashamed of myself. God is so good to me, grants my slightest wish and then I don't even have a little patience with my patients. I'll just keep on praying that I will not continue to give way to fits of impatience. *She didn't have much luck with that!*

1/14/37

After looking at pictures of her friends at home and wanting to see them: Tonight I feel like I could go out and cut up and paint the town just as red as anyone else. I feel like getting out after a whole week of classes. I detest them. They are so monotonous.

1/20/37

Capped tonight!!! Thrilled to a peanut. All student nurses present when we passed from Probs to Freshmen. Capped by Sr. Stanislaus. She is so sweet, I just love her to death. The orchestra played Leibestraum Processional, Anchors Aweigh, Dixie, and Ah! Sweet Mystery of Life. The music was lousy but that didn't mar the programme. We got back to hotel and saw "Little Men." It was as sad as "Valiant is the word for Carrie." I cried and cried. Then we had ice cream; one more highlight of my life - more thrilled with that as my graduation. I'm gonna wear →

my cape tomorrow if I smother to death. *And she did! She told us about that several times over the years, how hot it was, and how silly but proud she was.*

2/3/37

The people I like best to take care of are the old people and the young children. I think one of the sweetest things that can be is for an old grey-haired man to come and sit at his old wife's bedside during visiting hours. They both look so timid and helpless. And they look like they are afraid to lose each other. I think one of the most pitiful things that can be is to see a poor old person who has never married - who has no children or husband to come see them.

It is surprising how the old ladies will primp up when they are waiting for their husbands. But I love them every one. Even the gripey ones have their good points.

One of my patients, Mrs. R, is over 70 and she reminds me of an old grandmother mermaid - her hair is long, white and stringy. Her eyes are faded but just as sparkling as a young girl's. Her skin is a million wrinkles just like one who has been in water for ages. She has no teeth but she is so cheerful. You never hear a complaint from her. I would like to take care of her especially.

2/27/37

Got my first grade on ward duty. B. I am very proud of it because I got it from Sr. Mary and also because everybody except the two upper classmen got B also. Saw first Caesarian Section last week - both mother and babe were dead. Monday 1st and we lose our interns only to secure some new ones. I hate to see Dr. Tabor go and also Dr. Heidrick. Sometimes I like to work with Dr. Tabor and at other times I dislike him so intensely I want never to see him again. He certainly can fish for compliments and he is super sensitive, but a pretty good scout to work with. Dr. Heidrick is the best ole thing to work with. She doesn't know as much about it as Tabor but she is better to work with. However, she does most of the work herself.

4/16/37

Mom discusses some boys she knows...then: Grand day to just hike miles and miles. Instead I'll walk miles and miles but it will be on 434. Wish it was vacation time right now!

5/3/37

Have never worked so hard in all my life - am on LM3C females.

5/7/37

24 days till vacation - whoopee!

24 days of putting up with griping females!

But I love it sometimes.

5/20/37

Two more of Dr. Tripoli's cute jokes.

I. A house man operated on a pt for hemorrhoids. Some time later the pt sent him a crate of strawberries with a note attached - "Before my operation I would have had to stop 100 times to replace my hemorrhoids, but since you

operated on me I just had to replace them 10 times."

II. A doctor was examining an old man of 70. "Do you have to get up at night to use the bath room?" Old man: "No." Doctor: "You have very good kidneys for a man your age." Old man: "I sleep by an open window."

Finish class tomorrow - probably be taking the same things over next year. 11 days till vacation! Whoopee!

5/27/37

You are liable to hear just anything on a ward - The other day one of our most bashful and quietest medical men was getting ready to examine a woman. A group of medical students had just got finished doing a vaginal on her. He decided to do a rectal. She said, "Hey Doctor, you're in the wrong hole!"

6/20/37

Vacation is over - and I'm kind of glad. Although I had a good time I was getting restless. Am on ward 473 male neuro and med - Don't like it much. Maybe will like it better as time goes on.

7/1/37

New interns - A, B & C - Ayres, Bishop, and Campbell - Always thought A's rated highest with me but in this case I prefer C's. New Charting system too - Less work, about 1/10 as accurate as old charts - but OK. No one ever reads nurse notes anyway.

472 Ayres: Brown hair - brown eyes - round little boy face - rather thick lips - average height - compactly built - bounces along like a little rubber ball when he walks. Reminds me of a teddy bear. Knows his subject - but not killed with self-confidence.

473 Bishop: Dk. brown wavy hair - brown or grey eyes? Turned up nose - Tall thin. Dumb bunny. But cute.

474 & 474a Campbell: Blond with slightest suggestion of wave - honest grey eyes. High cheek bones - slim to the point of skinniness. Can tell he's from the country - poor English crops out at times. Simple but captivating.

7/31/37

Night duty - 472 - and one more hell of a night. A man died and his wife turned to me and said, "You killed Billy." Some funny feeling you can bet. Don't think I'll like night duty.

9/26/37

A most eventful day. One after which I'll probably be sent home. I was standing on the fire escape and the door slammed shut and locked me out. I went on down the fire escape and set off the burglar alarm. Boy, am I worried and scared. If they ship me I hope I can go live with Mamma and Papa (*her grandparents*) in Washington.

10/13/37

Nothing came of the fire escape episode.

Lots of family tragedies followed at this time: On October 10 her uncle died of diabetes; on November 17 her favorite aunt died of diabetes; on December 19 her grandfather died.

11/16/37 – 12/13/37

Diet Kitchen - liked it very much only I never baked a good batch of cakes.

12/14/37

Operating room – feel so unnecessary. Don't know what to do. Wonder if everyone thinks you are as dumb as you feel or if you look as dumb as you feel. Wonder if you can remember half the things you are told. Scrub nurse was Wilson – had two appendectomies by Dr. Mattingly – he was real nice. We got a good looking Xmas tree in Bowden's room and we were going to have a party with wine but we got cold feet and backed out. So I guess we'll have the party without wine. Wish I could go home for Xmas – just for the day.

That was the last nursing-related entry. She wrote once more on May 3, 1938 about a double date. After that it was copies of funny things she liked, poems and jokes. There is a page of her expenses while at the school; another page is a list of all the girls in her nursing class of Sept 1936 with notes about them over the years. At one point, she visited the Carville leper colony and wrote several pages on it.

Carville, the only leper colony in the United States! Carville, a complete town in its own, is about 50 miles outside of New Orleans. The colony is comprised of a



"This photo is of Mom at the largest of her 100th birthday parties, where she had the best time, got to see everyone she knew. The bad thing was, she said, everyone wanted to talk to her so she didn't get to eat many of the goodies like she wanted to. The hospital auxillary also gave her one, and we had one for just family that night." - Lanelle Hanke

hospital, two churches (one Catholic, one Protestant), individual houses for the patients, houses for the employees, several guest houses, a store, picture show, powerhouse, laundry, farm, dairy and the administration building... The whole

reservation is enclosed by a tall wire fence from which there is one connection to the outside. This gate is kept locked and guarded...

Marion's daughter Lanelle goes on to say, "Mom never quit being a nurse, even though she didn't work in that field after she got married and took time out to raise three children. After we left home she volunteered for the American Red Cross, St. Vincent de Paul, and as a hospital auxillary member for almost 30 years."

Lanelle sent us her mom's yearbook from 1939. "Her cape and pin have been given to her grandson's wife who is a nurse at the Ocean Springs Hospital in Mississippi. She asked for them specifically which made both my sister and me very happy. Another of her grandsons is a male nurse in Dallas. Mom was very proud of both of them." ❖

Pages from Marion's journal includes a list of prices for common items, and notes on her visit to Carville.

Borrowed .01

Sept 3 '36

| | | |
|--------------------------|----------------|-----------------|
| stockings - 25. | Loan 15. | Repay 7 |
| shoes - 26. | Union 65 | 15¢ |
| 1st th-paste 10. | Loan 10. | |
| B. pins 10. | | |
| car fare 14. | Church 05 | paper 15 |
| church 6 | grapes 05. | mask 05 |
| shoes 4.50. | Show 15 | just spent 50 |
| lipstick 20 | paper 10 | Show 10. |
| B. pins 5. | candy 05 | Show 15. |
| ink 10. | Show 15 | dress 2.00 |
| pencils 5 | Church 05 | fruit 1.00. |
| postage 10. | man Reg 05 | flowers 10. |
| iron, electric 1.29 (65) | car fare 14 | delt 10 |
| candy 5. | car fare 14-06 | cap 6. |
| soap 5 | stockings 20 | pencil 3 |
| Show 15. | Show 15 | paper 3 |
| car fare 14. | Church 05 | envelope 5 |
| church 05. | Ferry 10 | S. Nap. 10 |
| grapes 05 | Fare 100 | Show 10 |
| starch 05 | sweater 1.00 | 7 pen 25 |
| coca cola 10 | key 50 | Tooth paste 10 |
| car fare 14 | Show 15 | Train fare 1.70 |
| weight 01 | soap 15 | Show 33 |

Carville, the only leper colony in the United States! Carville, a complete town in its own, is situated about 50 miles outside of New Orleans. The colony is comprised of a Hospital; Two churches: one Catholic, one Protestant; Individual houses for the patients. - Houses for the employees. - Several guest houses. A store powerhouse, a laundry, farm, dairy, and the administration building. It is managed by the Sisters of Charity and is a Federal Government Reservation. It has at present there are over 300 patients about

Spring Scholarships and Awards

The Alumni Association presented scholarships and awards totaling \$6300 to students at the school's Promotion & Awards Ceremony on February 20. These scholarships and awards are made possible by generous donations from alumni, family and friends! We like to give the awards special meaning by honoring individuals close to the Charity community. Each award has a story that we hope connects its recipient to the rich history of the school.

Sister Blanche McDonnell Scholarship \$500



Sister Blanche was the director of the School of Nursing from 1963 to 1980. Her innovative leadership paved the way to create the modern Charity School of Nursing of today. She changed the face of the student body by enrolling African Americans, men and married students. She was the force behind the construction of the Education

Building in the 1970s. Sister passed away in 2012, still vibrant at the age of 92. The Alumni Association established this scholarship to honor this extraordinary nurse and educator.

Awarded to: Jacob Kindscher



Sister Camilla Gaudin Scholarship \$500

Sister Camilla joined the Daughters of Charity in 1935. She served as supervisor of the orthopedic department at Charity Hospital for 32 years, then spent another 18 years at Charity Hospital serving as patient

liaison. Though not a graduate of the School of Nursing, Sister Camilla was named an Honorary Member of the CHSN Alumni Association. Sister Camilla died in 2010, and a scholarship was established in honor of this beloved member of the Charity community by Charity alumni who had worked with her.

Awarded to: Jordan Pepper

Hugh and Maria Garcia Roach Scholarship \$1000

Maria was born in Mexico and graduated from Charity in 1938. She trained as a Nurse Anesthetist at Charity



Hospital, and went on to teach anesthesia to medical students at Tulane University School of Medicine. She earned her private pilot license in 1938 at the New Orleans Municipal Airport and in World War II joined the Army Air Corps Medical Air Evacuation system and received her military pilot wings. A decorated Army Air

Corps officer, Maria served in North Africa, Asia and Europe as a nurse and relief pilot and later became an instructor in air evacuation. Maria continued to serve her country in the State Department after the war. Her husband Hugh Roach was a British Foreign Service officer and became a United Nations representative for Canada. When Hugh died, Maria established a scholarship fund in both their names at Charity School of Nursing.

Awarded to: James Purcell



Marcelle Jacobs Wright Scholarship \$500

Marcelle graduated in 1941, during the Second World



War. She joined the Navy Nurse Corps and was sent to the South Pacific Theater where she tended casualties of some of the worst battles of that war, including Guadalcanal. She later worked in the VA Hospital caring for the veterans of her own generation and new generations as well. Marcelle and her husband Joseph passed

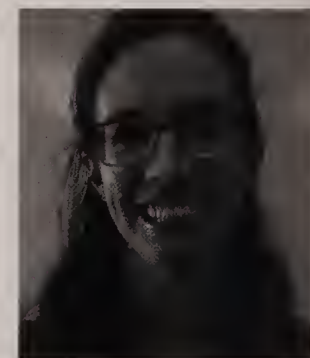
away in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina. This scholarship in her memory was established by Marcelle's family.

Awarded to: Kelly Ward



Gloria Redmond Ashman Scholarship \$500

Gloria graduated from Charity Hospital School of Nursing in 1948, part of the Cadet Nurse Corps in World War II. She went on to serve in the Air Force, then worked as a RN from Alaska to Florida. Gloria continued nursing career until she was 85, and is still volunteering at age 87. She is a generous contributor to the Scholarship



Fund because the Cadet Nurse Corps enabled her to become a nurse and she wants to “pay it forward” by helping current students. In recognition of her support, the Alumni Association named this scholarship in her honor.

Awarded to: Anesha Prier



Mary Ann Signorelli Whynot Scholarship \$500

Mary Ann was a World War II Cadet Nurse at Charity and graduated in 1946. Her husband Richard Whynot

established this scholarship in her memory because of her love of nursing and her happy memories of Charity.

Awarded to: Alexandra Bergens



Sally Cooper Scholarship \$1000

Sally Cooper graduated from Charity in 1959. After teaching at the School of Nursing for many years, she became Director in 1980, the first Director who was also a Charity graduate. Sally led the school through the merger of Charity Hospital School of Nursing with Delgado Community College, creating the Charity School of Nursing of today. Sally was an active member of the Alumni Association for many years and when she retired in 1992, this scholarship was established in appreciation for all she did for Charity. Sally passed away in 2012.

Awarded to: Brooke Troxclair



Joycelyn Jeansonne Scholarship \$500

Joycelyn graduated in 1978, and is an active member and leader in the Alumni Association. Years ago, when the Alumni Association was offering only one scholarship, Joycelyn's husband decided that we needed to offer more. He committed to supporting this scholarship every



semester. Though not limited to students interested in Pediatrics, this scholarship seeks to encourage those students because of Joycelyn's love of the field.

Awarded to: Kimberly Doris



Pin Awards

It is always difficult to select recipients for the Alumni Association scholarships. We always have many more outstanding applicants than we have scholarships to award. Though these students were not selected to receive a scholarship, we wanted to recognize their achievements by assisting with the purchase of their graduation pins.

Ruth Wallace Pin Award

Ruth was a 1959 graduate of Charity who later became the Registrar for the School of Nursing. She was beloved by generations of students, staff and faculty.

Awarded to: Latisha Skyles

Enzel O'Neil "Scottie" Pennington Pin Award

Scottie graduated in 1951, and a generous donation was made in her memory by her friend Julia Schomaker '52.

Awarded to: Alexis Heard

Arthur Joseph Delima Jr. Pin Award

Faculty member Michelle Delima chose to honor the memory of her father by creating this award.

Awarded to: Maggie English

Federation of Nurses Awards

The Federation of Registered Professional and Licensed Practical Nurses of Charity Hospital was established in the 1970s to give collective bargaining power to the nurses in negotiations to improve patient care, working conditions, schedules, shift differentials and other employment issues. Dues began at 50 cents per pay period and were paid by RNs and LPNs. When Charity Hospital closed after Hurricane Katrina, the Federation's last executive council decided that the remaining funds should be used to support nursing education. They chose to donate the money to the Charity Hospital School of Nursing Alumni Association, to be used to give an award of \$500 each semester to one Charity student in the RN program and one Charity student in the PN program. The students are chosen in a random drawing. In this way, the dues paid by Charity Hospital nurses will assist the future nurses of the community and keep the spirit of Charity Hospital alive. The recipients of these awards for Spring 2017 were:

Tran Truc, RN Program

Demetra Bell, PN Program ❖

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www.CharityAlumni.org

Facebook:

Charity Alumni NOLA

See more photos at:

<http://charityalumni.shutterfly.com>

Shutterfly is a photo-sharing site where you can view photos from our events.

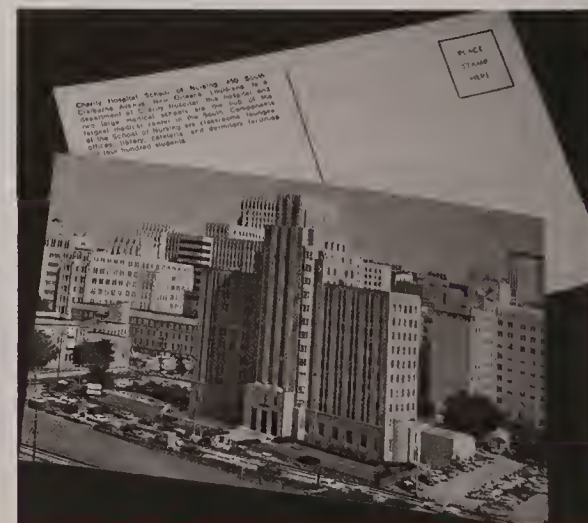
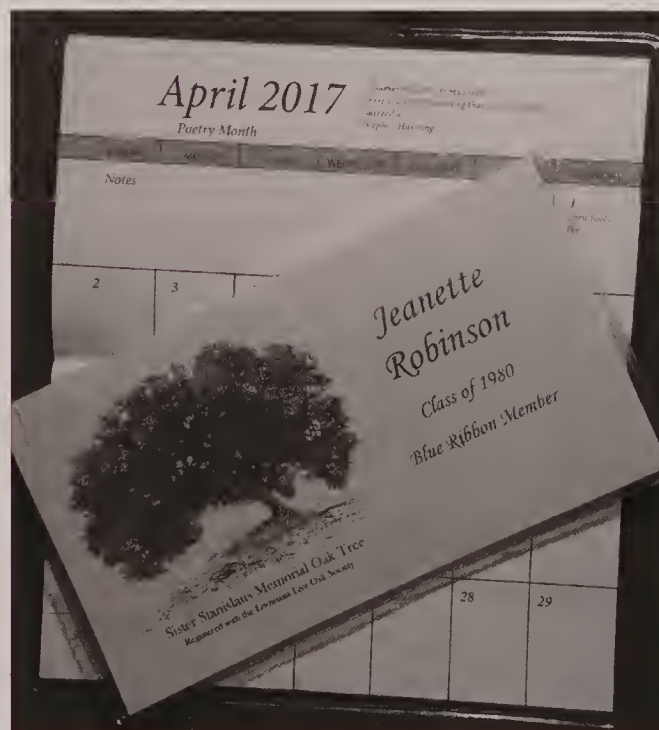
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www.CharityAlumni.org



Graduation Awards 2016-17

The Fall 2016 Pinning Ceremony was held on December 12, and special recognition goes to the recipients of these graduation awards, presented by Dr. Cheryl Myers: *(pictured top of page, left to right, top to bottom)* Sister Stanislaus Malone Award – **Reid Rogers**; Honor Pin – **Kelli Hagan**; Award of Distinction and NODNA Leadership Award – **Kaitlyn Fortier**; Sister Blanche McDonnell Alumni Award – **Sister Miriam Rivera Martinez**; Highest GPA – **Kylie Dinoso**; Margaret Palmisano Alumni Award – **Katie Remes**.
Spring 2017

Spring 2017 graduates were honored at their Pinning Ceremony on May 15. The



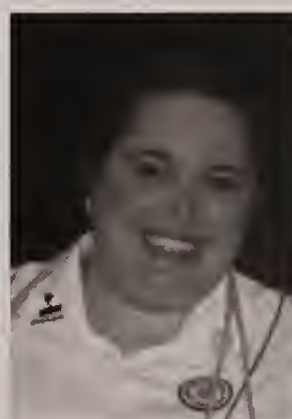
award winners for this class were: *(pictured below, top to bottom, left to right)* Honor Pin and Highest GPA – **Samantha Eldridge**; Margaret Palmisano Alumni Award – **Heidi Fleckinger**; Sr. Stanislaus Malone Award – **Deb Ursin**; NODNA Leadership Award and Award of Distinction – **Brooke Troxclair**; Sr. Blanche McDonnell Alumni Award – **Shannon Vicari**.



The Theresa Bittenbring and John Henry Marque Fund Student Nurse Award goes to five students with the highest GPA in the academic year. Fall 2016: **Kylie Dinoso**, **Kelli Hagan**, and **Robin Baltz**. Spring 2017: **Samantha Eldridge** and **Yamil Sreiy**.

Pins from Alumni

Ursula Allain '65 donated funds in memory of her classmate **Marcia Crocker Ray '65** to purchase pins for two students who could not afford to buy pins in December 2016. **Rose Jeanne Buccola '49** and **Joan Arceneaux Levasseur '60** each funded a pin for a student who could not afford one in Spring 2017. Because of their generosity, these students were able to participate in the Pinning Ceremonies with their classmates.



Congratulations to all the graduates of the 2016-17 school year!

We are proud of all of you, and welcome you into the Alumni Association! ❖



Charity Tales

By Mark Brinker, MD
and Bo Frederick, MD

Remember the long nights in the Accident Room and West Admit? Remember “See one, Do one, Teach one”? Remember when your day was so bad and your bank account was so empty that a free meal ticket to the basement Charity cafeteria made you happy?

Remember coming home after being up 48 hours, exhausted with your scrubs covered in blood...and worse? We all do, we trained at Charity!

As orthopedic surgery residents, we remember working with some amazing nurses at Charity. We were dealing with some very sick and seriously injured patients, and it was a real team effort. We all remember.

In her day, Charity was a busy hospital and trauma center providing free care to tens-of-thousands of patients every year. She was also an unparalleled teaching hospital, training thousands of nurses and physicians.

Charity Hospital itself is now only a memory, permanently closed since 2005. There are books written about the history of Charity and a book describing her final days during Katrina. But there are no books from the nurse, medical student, and resident perspective. We all have stories from our days at Charity – some are funny, some are amazing, and some are just plain unbelievable. This is why we are contacting you. We plan to publish a printed book compiling Charity stories from those who trained and worked there. And we want to include one or more of your “Charity Tales.”

Please take a few minutes and think back to your days at Charity. We want stories about funny patients and experiences while you were at Charity. We want stories about the amazing Charity “third world” medicine that really worked.

We also want you to remind us of any terms or words unique to Charity. If we get enough of these we will include a Charity Glossary in the book (for example: low blood – anemia, high blood – hypertension, sweet blood – diabetes). Any funny patient quotes would also be good. Also, if you have any photographs from your days at Charity that you think would help the book, please email them directly to us.

Please understand the purpose of the book is to celebrate Charity by sharing our astonishing stories with the world. We do not want to bash Charity – she was a great hospital and gave each of us priceless hands on experience. We are proud to have been trained at Charity.

We cannot, of course, use any real names of patients,



so please, if your story includes a patient, use a fictitious name.

We will be happy to list you as a contributor, or you can remain anonymous. We may edit or rewrite your story, so be patient with us. We will get this published, and if we use your story, you will get a free copy of the book.

Our request is going to all the nursing and medical alumni that we can find. If you have friends that worked at Charity and you think they would want to contribute, please give them our website address. The more Charity Tales the better.

Just go to **www.charitytales.com**. You will need to register your name and sign the copyright release. We cannot use your story without your signing the release. You can submit as many stories as you like, and please include as many details as you can remember. Please send the website link to all your friends. If you have any questions, you can contact us through our email.

Please take time from your busy schedule and help us write this book. Charity is now just a memory and these stories are now fading into the past. We owe it to ourselves and to Charity to write this book. When we think back to our years at Charity, the best memories are the stories we tell our friends about our time there. We need to share these stories!

Thanks for your help,

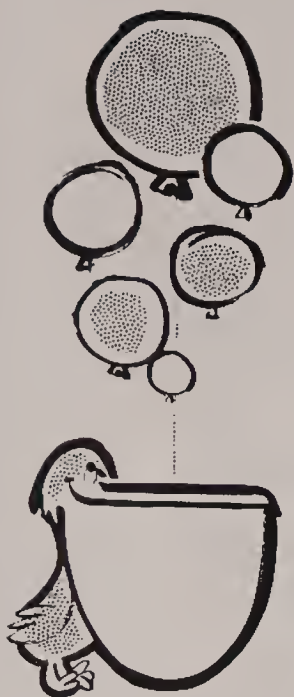
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Charity Tales www.charitytales.com

Note: We prefer that you use the web site to submit your stories. If you choose not to use the web site, you can send them directly to us via our email or by regular mail to the address below. If you do not go through the web site, we will need to mail you a written copyright release to sign if your story is selected to go in the book. So please include your name and mailing address with any story submitted via email or regular mail.

9301 North Central Expressway, Suite 350
Dallas, Texas 75231



Class Reunions

Plan a reunion for your class! The Alumni Office can provide a class list with any contact information we have, mailing labels and other assistance.

Take the first step!
Contact the Alumni

Office by calling 504-571-1395 or email us at chsnaaoffice@gmail.com.

Here are reunions that are in the works:

Class of 2007: Ten-Year Reunion

We are in the beginning stages of planning our ten-year reunion. Please save the date for Saturday September 23, 2017. Our reunion will be coordinated with the Fall Alumni Breakfast.

Please join the Facebook group, **Charity Class of 2007---10 year Reunion** to get the latest information about our reunion plans! Don't miss out!
- Tori Harris Chatman '07

Class of 1968: Fifty-Year Reunion

The Class of 1968 is looking forward to celebrating our 50th reunion next year, on the Friday before the Alumni Breakfast in September 2018. The exact date for the Breakfast has yet to be determined by the Alumni Association, but we are currently gathering email addresses to add to our list.

If you are not receiving emails from our class at this time, please send your email address to **Cindy Beniger** at ccbinger@aol.com. Let's make it a wonderful turn-out! ♦

Lost Alumni

The names listed here are some graduates we have no current addresses for. If you can help us find any of these lost alumni, please contact the Alumni Office, 504-571-1395 or chsnaaoffice@gmail.com.

1977 - Forty Years

MARY BARBIER BIGELOW
JEANETTE SUE BELINA CHESTERMAN
DEBRA WALLACE CULOTTA
FRANCES WHITE CURTIS
KAREN BORDELON DANTIN
KATHLEEN CAVOLICK DEAN
ANDREA BAIAMONTE DOUGLASS
FAY DUKE
PEGGY CHAPLAIN DUNN
MARGARET ENGERON
ANNE MCCARTY ERNARD
ANNE FALTERMAN
DOROTHEA JOHNSON FLEISCHER
M KATHRYN SYLVESTER FOSTER
SHEELA LEBLANC GROS
RHONDA ELLSWORTH HANEY
VICTORIA HARTMAN
BRENDA HEBERT
UNNI KVALE
BARBARA DEANE LEXOW
MARCELYN BLUMENTHAL MAC ADAMS
CAROLE HINGLE MATTERN
DEANNA LEONARD McKNEELY
JANET RASER PARRISH
DEBBIE HARMANN PERRY
PAMELA SLACK PIERRE
CAROLYN DAY PISARELLO
NANCY BLAKENEY POLLARD
MARY BETH MACMILLIAN ROBERTS
YOLANDA CRACO SAENZ
KAREN PRIMEAUX THOMAS
DEBRA BARBIER UPCHURCH
ELIZABETH SPENCE WATKINS
NANCY PRIMEAUX WIENER
SHERYL EUBANKS WILSON

1987 - Thirty Years

CAROL LOPRESTO ANGELO
ROSLYN MATTHEWS ARNAUD
CATHERINE BADEAUX
MICHAEL BAILEY
CAROLYN BECK
BLANCHE BAKER BERNADAS
CASSANDRA SCOTT BORNE
ROSA GUERRA BOWMAN
KIMBERLY BERGERON COOK
BARBARA DASCHNER
JADA DAVIS
ELIZABETH FRADELLA DORMAN
DONNA DOWELL
ALETHIA FREEMAN GAUTHIER
JULIE BUCK GLADSON
LEONARD GRIFFIN
RENEE BURCH GUENTHER
ANNETTE BILELLO HAGEN
PEARLIE DEAN HARRIS
VERONICA BROUSSARD HOOKFIN
PAULA RASPIÑO HUX
NICOLE FREMAUX KEEHN
DEBORAH LOWE KENDRICK

MELODY ST AMAND LEA
PATTI POTTER LEHMANN
MARY McMENAMIN
CYNTHIA WHITE MINOR
GINA MISTRETTA
DIONNE FRANK PARK
TIA PAUL
JUDY PETITFILS
KRISTI CONNAUGHTON PFLUEGER
ROSEMARY PHILLIPS
DANIEL PITRE
CAROLYN BROWN REPATH
KAREN RESSLER
LESLIE MEYERS ROPPOLO
JUDY COLLINS ROSA
JANET BALENTINE RUDD
TRACY CALL SCALLAN
PATRICIA PHILLIPS SLACK
AURORA MICELI SMITH
MAUREEN MCCABE SPRING
DONNA ROSS STEWART
SUZETTE VALLADARES
DEBORAH CALCAGNO WOLFE
MARSHA CROWE WYATT

1997 - Twenty Years

DIANE CRIST ALDRIDGE
ANTHONY AMADEO
MELANI DECK AUTIN
STACEY MARTINEZ BAILIE
CHRISTINE HEBERT BERTUCCI
DEBORAH BIBBINS
AMANDA MOSSMAN BONNETTE
SUZANNE SINCLAIR CARPENTER
DENISE GUEDRY CHARTERS
GISELLE CHERAMIE
PAULA DERBES
CAL DOMINGUE
LORI DRIGGS
CYNTHIA PENDERGRAST DUFOR
PAULETTE DUFRENE
KENT FAIRCHILD
BRENDA SUE FERNANDEZ
KAREN FARNSWORTH FRANKLIN
KIMBERLY KIDDER GETTYS
DENISE CASE GILBERT
KEVIN GUTIERREZ
SCHILACY HALL
JONATHAN HAMM
EVELYN HARRIS
JANIS HORNSBY
WENDY HUBBELL
KRISDEN WELLS HUGGETT
MICHELLE BARBIER JIRON
BRENDA JOHNSON
CLARENCE JONES
ROSEANN KEY
CATHERINE CARTER KLOTZ
LISA MUNSTER KRAKE
TAMMIE PARKER LALA
DANNEEL MILLER LARKIN
BARBARA LEDOUX
FLORENCE LOGRANDE
DANIELLE THOMSEN MAGRI
KELLEY MURRAY MANDELLA
MICHELLE MATTHEWS
MICHELE JENNINGS MAYEUX
RENEE MORRIS
SHERRIE MULLET
JENNIFER SUMLIN MUSACCHIA
ROBIN BRYANT PALERMO
TAMLA THOMAS- PIERRE
GAYLE GIBSON POPULIS
BECKY BROWN PORTER
MARC PROVENZANO
LYDIA HORNSBY QUIRK
LEONA REED
TODD ROBINSON
LISA DUSKIN ROHILLIARD
NICOLE HAWCO ROUX
KAREN CROSS SALTER
PRISCILLA WILSON SHANNAHAN

KELLIE CARTER SIMPSON
WANDA SUE SINGLETARY
YVONNE ARCENEUX SMITH
KAREN SPENCER
MARTHA SWIFT
STACEY NUNENMACHER THOMAS
BERNADINE CAMPO TOLER
BOBBIE VOELKER
MARION GULLAGE WALLS
GINA ROMANO WARD
BARBARA WARREN
TERESKA BRIDGES WASHINGTON
STACEY LOFTIN- WHITE
GARFIELD WHITTLE
ERIN JUSTISON WIEBER
PAULETTE WILLIAMS
GAYLA FENDER WILLMS
MICHELE LEWIS WOODS

2007 - Ten Years

ANNETTE AGUILAR
COLLEEN ASSAVEDO
COURTNEY KEEN BAHAM
DANIELLE BERTUCCI
AMY CAMBAS
REBECCA CAMBAS
KENNETH CARSON
STEPHANIE CHAMBERS
DARA COURVILLE CHAPMAN
ERIN COOPER
MELISSA WHITTINGTIN CREATH
JANET DEBARBIERIS
CHERYL DELAGRANGE
MEGHAN DUPONT
CONNIE FIORELLA
JENNIFER FITZHENRY
ANGIE FLETCHER
DONNA CASCIO FOWLER
CLAUDIA MAYORQUIN GARCIA
SONJAC GEORGE
RODRICK GRIFFIN
RACHEL HAMM
RENAUDA JEFFERSON
ILSIA KHODAVANDI
JENNIFER LAGUARDIA
SUMMER LANNES
KAREN BERTUCCI LAURENT
ALEXANDER LE
TAMMI LEWIS
DAWN LOPEZ
CRYSTAL MAISE
CANTRELL MARTIN
JENNIFER MCCONNELL
VALENTINA TOURNIER MCLEOD
TIFFINIE MERCADEL
SARAH MILAN
GINA MOLINARY MONTGOMERY
SHANEL MOORIS
MANDY MORRISSEY
DAWN MOTES
GAYNELL NELSON
DEBRA NELSON
SHELIA OUBRE
TRACEY PARKS
KAREN PLESCIA
CARLNETTA WALLACE RABB
PAMELA IVES RESENDEZ
LETRIDA RHYANS
MATTHEW RONQUILLO
LAJUAN RUSS
KATHERINE RYDER
JENNIE SANGER
AMY SCHNEIDER
RHONDA SIGUR
KERI SKEINS
VIDA THOMPSON
MARTHA URIBE
GLENORA WALKER
ROBERT WESTERFIELD
CHARLES WILLIAMS
ALBERTENE ZACHERY
JILL ZERINGUE ♦



Charity Alumni Fall Breakfast

'70s & '7s



We're celebrating the crazy decade of the 1970s with

SATURDAY MORNING FEVER

Saturday, Sept. 23

At The Ridgeway, 2431 Metairie Road

(Metairie Road at Ridgeway Drive, between Bonabel and Causeway).

Plenty of free parking around the building and directly across Ridgeway Drive.

We're also highlighting classes that end in 7,
so... **Join us for '70s & '7s!**

Come dressed as your favorite '70s character or
event... or come as you are! Whether you prefer
a disco leisure suit, army fatigues or a toga,
let's do the Time Warp again!!!

*Menu: Eggs Benedict, Fruit Salad, Breakfast
Pastries, White Chocolate Bread Pudding,
Coffee, Tea and Juice*

**Registration and cash bar open at 9:30am,
Breakfast served at 10:30am.**



*Great food & great friends - plus
souvenirs, auctions, costume contests,
door prizes, and so much more!*

**Please purchase your tickets by
Sept. 8 to guarantee your seating!**

Use the form on page 27 and mail your check for
\$40 per ticket to: CHSN Alumni Association,
Delgado Charity School of Nursing,
450 S. Claiborne Ave, New Orleans, LA 70112
or purchase on our website:
www.CharityAlumni.org

You can use this form...

Or visit our website: www.CharityAlumni.org

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY!

Name: _____ Class: _____
First name Maiden (or Graduation name if different from current name) Last name

Street Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ E-Mail: _____

☐ I want to attend the Alumni Breakfast on Sept. 23



Reserve for me: How many? _____ Breakfast(s) @\$40 each...\$ _____

Bringing a Guest? Please give us the name for their nametag:

PLEASE make your reservation by September 8 to guarantee seating!
*This deadline is NOT a formality! We need to know how many people to expect.
You could get turned away if you don't purchase tickets in advance!*

☐ I want to pay my Annual Membership Dues:

- ☐ \$15 Regular Membership
- ☐ \$25 Blue Ribbon Membership*
- ☐ \$50 Silver Star Membership*
- ☐ \$100 Sister Stanislaus Membership*

or ☐ Sustaining Membership: a one-time gift of \$500 (and never pay dues again).*

*Members at the \$25 level or above, please select your choice of (see photos on page 22):

- ☐ Personalized CHSNAA pocket calendar
- ☐ Charity Key Ring
- ☐ Vintage postcard of the old Charity Dorm

☐ I want to make a donation to the:

Art & Archives Preservation Fund..... \$ _____
CASN Convention Travel Fund \$ _____
Faculty Development Fund..... \$ _____
Scholarship Fund..... \$ _____
Student Emergency Assistance Fund..... \$ _____
Other: _____ \$ _____

Mail this form with your check to: CHSN Alumni Association,
Delgado Charity School of Nursing, 450 S. Claiborne Ave, New Orleans, LA 70112



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ALUMNI ASSOCIATION
Delgado Charity School of Nursing
450 South Claiborne Avenue
New Orleans, Louisiana 70112

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The White Cap 2017 INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

| | |
|--|----------------|
| Photos from the Spring Luncheon..... | Page 3 |
| Goodbyes..... | Page 14 |
| Spring 2017 Scholarships..... | Page 20 |
| Pinning Awards..... | Page 23 |
| Tales of Charity Hospital | Page 24 |
| Saturday Morning Fever: September Alumni Breakfast..... | Page 26 |
| Order tickets and renew your membership..... | Page 27 |

Plus...

**Alumni Letters, School News,
and so much more!**

What is that number after my name?

The number immediately after your last name on your mailing label indicates the year your membership expires. For example, “Jane Jones 2017” means your membership expires at the end of 2017. You are current, but you may want to consider renewing your membership now for 2018.

If your label has a “0” or a year earlier than 2017 (such as “2013”), you are overdue! Please join or renew your membership now.

If the numbers on your label are 9999, 8888 or 7777, you are in a specialized membership category (Lifetime, Sustaining or Friend) and you do NOT need to renew your membership, but we do appreciate your donations!

If you have any questions about your membership, call or email the Alumni office. ❖



Charity Hospital School of Nursing & Charity School of Nursing

Alumni News

Fall 2017

Charity School of Nursing, 450 South Claiborne Avenue, New Orleans, Louisiana 70112

Alumni Office 504-571-1395 chsnaaoffice@gmail.com www.CharityAlumni.org Facebook: Charity Alumni NOLA

From the President

By Bryan J. Camus '12

Yes, yes, those were my very own boogie shoes! I told y'all I was gonna find 'em! And, boy, am I glad I did; those of you who were at the brunch with us know what I am talking about.

How do all of you do it? These events are so much fun that I have to go home and take a quick eight-hour nap after every one of them. From the costumes and camaraderie, to the speakers and the prizes, from the music to the very nice bartenders, it was wonderful. But, of course, I have to take everyone's word on how nice the bartenders were because I never made it to the bar, as I am quite the teetotaler, ya know. Or is that "tale-teller"? I always get those two confused.

End of an Era

Well, this is my last President's Letter. You will no longer have to put up with my poor attempts at humor or misguided fashion sense. Being privileged to be at the head of this organization has been akin to being a hood ornament on one of those massive cars of the 60s: the car is going to go to all of the best places and the hood ornament is just a decoration that holds on and gets there first! And what an incredible 23 years it has been! Wait, what? It hasn't been 23 years? But it has to be more than the five short years the calendar says it was!

Let's see, in the time I have been President-Elect and President of the Alumni Association, about 1000 newly minted Charity Nurses have joined our ranks. I have watched you bless students with thousands and thousands of dollars in scholarships. You established and replenished an emergency fund to offer a helping hand to students when life has given them a little more than they can handle. You have set up scholarship funds that will go on long after we all have hung up our stethoscopes.

You had a Homecoming where we all had a really phenomenal time and still managed to add a little "something-something" to the alumni



Above, Pam Welsh '70 and President Bryan Camus '12 are stayin' alive at the Alumni Breakfast in September. Below: The shoes.

funds for the students. New scholarships and student awards for excellence were created. New tools for student success were added. New speakers spoke about the excellence you achieved. I got to wear platform shoes again... Are you absolutely, positively, 100% SURE it was not 23 years?

However long it was, I can sum it up in two words: you care. Nursing is all about caring and who better knows that than a Charity Nurse? You care about where you came from, you care about what you did, and you care about what legacy you leave. You care!

So, I want to leave you with a quote from Maya Angelou: "I've learned that people will forget what you said, people will forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel."

And now, a quote from James Brown: "I feel good!" They both describe my time with y'all! ❖



From the Executive Director

By Lista Hank '97

Next year, the **City of New Orleans** will be celebrating its **Tricentennial Anniversary**, and there will be plenty of events around town to mark this historical occasion. We can't think of a better theme for our **Spring Alumni Luncheon** than a celebration of all things New Orleans! Can we ever have too many fleur de lis? I don't think so!

Another exciting anniversary we plan to mark at the Luncheon is the **Bicentennial of the Daughters of Charity**. The Sisters were an integral part of the history of Charity Hospital and the School of Nursing! We are delighted to celebrate this relationship and learn more about who the Daughters of Charity are today.

In Jeopardy

Ironically, as we go to press, Congress is considering a tax reform package that would eliminate the **Historic Tax Credit** which has led to the preservation of so many of our historic buildings! These credits have been essential to the restoration for new use and return to commerce of structures that have proved to be catalysts for economic development in New Orleans and across the country. Without the Historic Tax Credit, the recommendation by the Urban Land Institute to rehab **Big Charity** (*see story on page 20*) might very well come to nothing. Elimination of these credits could effectively kill the restoration and reuse of Big Charity. So ask your representatives in Congress to preserve the Historic Tax Credit! See more information from the National Trust for Historic Preservation at www.savingplaces.org.

Hats in the Ring

Thank you to all the folks running for the Board of Directors - for being willing to go the extra mile, come to meetings, make (sometimes tough) decisions, help out at events, and just do whatever needs to be done. Let's all show how much we appreciate these intrepid folks by VOTING! Candidate bios are on page 21 and the Ballot is on page 22. Those elected will be inducted into office at the Spring Luncheon, and President-Elect **Patrick Brady '83** will take over the presidential reins from Bryan (though Patrick has stated unequivocally that he will not make any attempt to match Bryan's sartorial flair at alumni events). Thank you, Bryan, for your amazing leadership, your enthusiasm - and for leaping in to every one of our wild themes with both feet!

It's been a good year here at the Alumni Association, and I really appreciate getting all your letters and emails - about who we have lost, your school memories, the honors you've received, and what you are doing now. I hope to hear from more of you in the coming year! I especially want to thank all of you who have given so much in support of us and the School of Nursing! We couldn't do any of the things we do without your membership dues,

and your additional donations to all of our funds, from Scholarships to Student Emergency Assistance to Art & Archives Preservation. From newsletters like this to the alumni get-togethers, we couldn't do it without your support. You make it happen. Thank you!

Now, go order your Luncheon tickets! And as always, please keep in touch! ❖

Dean's Report

By Cheryl E. Myers, PhD, RN

Executive Dean CSN Campus/Dean of Nursing

It's hard to believe another year is coming to a close. As 2017 winds down, the work the students, faculty and staff did over the past year is deserving of recognition.

In March, the program had its accreditation site visit by the ACEN. I am proud to report that we received continuing accreditation for eight years, which is the best outcome attainable. Our next visit will be in 2025 - we hope to be in a new building by then! No new information yet on the new building, but **Delgado Chancellor Joan Davis** is diligently working to make this happen.

We have an enrollment of approximately 750 students in the RN, PN and CNA programs. We continue to have more qualified applicants than we can accommodate. In 2016, we graduated 278 proud Charity program completers - 48% of the new graduates in the greater New Orleans area! Thanks to the support of the College, we have been able to hire nursing tutors to assist students to master the increasingly complex course material presented in the program. It is our hope that the tutors, combined with the ongoing efforts of students and faculty, will help more of our students complete the program successfully.

Thanks to the generous donations from many alumni, over \$7,700 in scholarships and Pin Awards were distributed this fall to fifteen deserving students. Your support of the students is an integral component of their success and we appreciate the opportunities you are presenting for our students to achieve their dream of being Charity graduates.

Additionally, a HUGE thank you to **Rose Jeanne Buccola '49**, for her scholarship donation which allows us to receive matching funds from the Louisiana Board of Regents to double impact of her gift. (*See the story on page 6.*)

On a personal note, we all know our Charity graduates are some of the best nurses in the world. I had the occasion to experience first-hand the knowledge, skill, and compassion of a Charity graduate during my mother's recent journey in hospice care until her death in August. My family and I will be forever grateful for the care we received from Laurie and her team. The spirit of Charity nurses lives on!

Wishing you a safe and peaceful holiday season. ❖

Alumni Sparkle for Saturday Morning Fever

The Charity Alumni came prepared to boogie at the September Breakfast! Over 120 grads gathered for a disco celebration of '70s and '7s at the Ridgeway of Old Metairie.

President **Bryan Camus '12** was resplendent in a white leisure suit and sequined platform shoes. **Jenn Garnand '11** gave the blessing accompanied by her daughter Lily. Sunny plates of Eggs Benedict were served with asparagus and tomatoes, fruit salad and pastries with bread pudding to top it off.

Dr. Cheryl Myers, Executive Dean of the School of Nursing, was there to give us an update on the school. (You can read her report on page 2.)

Special Guests

Dr. Bo Frederick, co-author of the book-in-progress *Charity Tales* came in from Texas to join our celebration. Dr. Frederick was a resident at Charity from 1985 through 1990. He remembered that he was on-call on his first night as a resident and how he looked to the nurses to keep him on track. He said he has great memories of Charity Hospital: sad, funny, amazing! He explained that the book will be a collection of short stories depicting the pride of those who trained and worked at Charity. He recounted a couple of the stories he has collected so far, including one about a Charity nurse in Vietnam. She was recognized as a Charity nurse by her cap, and the doctors knew they could count on her resourcefulness. At one point, she used her Charity-acquired skills to fashion a chest-tube out of items at hand and save a soldier's life. (See page 20 for information on submitting your own stories.)

Our friend **John Batty**, co-author of *Voices of Angels: Disaster Lessons from Katrina Nurses* also joined us, donating a copy of his book for a door prize as well as making a nice donation to the Scholarship Fund.

Roll Call

Joycelyn Jeansonne '78 joined Bryan to conduct the Roll Call of Classes. Nine members of the **Class of 1977** stepped out for their 40-year reunion. The **Class of 1968** is planning their 50-year reunion next year, but couldn't wait to start the fun - eleven classmates showed up for the pre-reunion gathering!

Classes from 1946 to Spring 2017 were represented, plus seven students, three faculty and our beloved Honorary Member **Rick Crouse** who ran the Media Center →



Left to right, top to bottom: Joycelyn Jeansonne '78, Doris Burvant '60, Bryan Camus '12; Lisa Washington '82, Cynthia Sartin '77, Sharon Burel '80; Amber Stokes '13, Brooke Troxclair '17, Vivian Manes '70 and Charlene Persich '74.





Left to right, top to bottom: Rose Jeanne Buccola and Mary Singletary, Class of '49; Ross Cunningham '84, Bobby Torbert '60 and Ursula Allain '65; Marlene Bergeron '79 and Rae Ann DeRoche '84; Joan Guccione, Lucille Castine and Patricia Bourgeois, Class of '57; Patsy Caffery '86 and daughter Elizabeth Caffery '02; student Lauren Griffin and Charlene Berger '79; Patrick Reed '90, Brooke Troxclair '17 and Patricia Dufrene '85.



at the school for forty years. Bryan recognized mother and daughter alums, sister alums, twins and alumni spouses.

Cool Outfits

There was a three-way tie for the Coolest '70s Outfit. **Pam Welsh '70**, **Cynthia Sartin '77** and faculty **Barbara Zeugner** received goofy '70s memorabilia for their spirited styles.

Hot Prizes

The 50/50 drawing collected \$326 and winner **Doris Burvant '60** took home \$163. **Monica Johnson '93** won the raffle of a statue of a pelican family, and **Amber Stokes '13** won the raffle for a vintage CHSN Pennant. Door prizes were distributed to excited recipients, and **Cindy Beniger '68** led the singing of the Alma Mater.

Afghans, tote bags, ornaments and other souvenirs were eagerly purchased by attendees, and the mirror ball center-pieces were scooped up to carry home as mementos of a morning of fun and friendship. Everyone buzzed with excitement as plans were made to see each other very soon at the Spring Luncheon in March 2018. ❖





Left to right, top to bottom: Judy Ross and Sandra Hintz, Class of '68; Janis Ducote and Valrie Luker, Class of '75; Monica Johnson '93; Dr. Cheryl Myers and Suzy Andry '59; Jeanette Robinson '80; faculty member Evelyn Dodson and Elizabeth Dorman '87; Karen Bradley '63, Maureen McDonald '62, Lynne Cook and Peggy Johns, Class of '63; Fay Stevenson '74, Celeste Keller '74, Vanessa Elias '77, Karen Mathes and Julie Joyce '75; Dr. Bo Frederick and Tori Harris Chatman '07; Patrick Brady '83. ❖



A Charity Love Story

By Lista Hank '97

Victor Buccola joined the Navy in 1946 at the age of 17, serving in the Pacific Theater on an aircraft carrier. After WWII ended, he returned home to New Orleans, continuing in the Naval Reserves. In the summer of 1949, he was young and carefree, and looking forward to a hot date one evening. He washed his car, made a few tuning adjustments, then decided to degrease the engine. Without thinking, he threw gasoline on the hot engine. There was a flash of flames. Vic was severely burned and the ambulance brought him to Charity Hospital.



The Start of Something Big

Rose Jeanne Roussel was in her last year of nursing school. "I came in for the night shift, and the nurse who had been on duty told me, *That guy in Bed One has been giving everyone trouble.* I loaded up my tray of syringes to make the rounds giving everyone their antibiotic shots, and headed for Bed One. He was lying on his stomach because of the burns on his back and legs, and when I took his arm to give him a penicillin shot, he pulled away and fussed about how sore his arms were. I took my tray to the other side of the bed and

tried the other arm, same reaction. So I came back around the bed again and just stuck him before he could complain! That's how it all started," laughs Rose Jeanne.

Despite his initial reputation among the nurses, "Vic was really so pleasant about everything. He had to get penicillin shots every three hours and sulfa shots every four hours, so he wasn't sleeping much at night. He would watch me charting and one day he asked me if I got sleepy at night. I said no, I was too busy to feel sleepy, but he offered me his little battery-operated radio. And I would carry the little radio from ward to ward as I made my rounds, listening to music."

Striking a Deal

Vic was popular among the other patients and the young guys would gather around his bed to play cards. But because he was in the military, Vic needed to be transferred out of Charity to the VA. "He told the doctor: *Don't send me over there with all those old people!*"

remembers Rose Jeanne. "He was well enough to drive, so he said, *Can I just go home and come in here to get my dressings changed?* The doctor said that would be okay, if he could find a nurse willing to do that on top of her other duties. So Vic began canvassing the nurses about how they got to work. When he got to me I said, *I take the bus.*"

Even though Rose Jeanne was still in school, and normally would have been required to live in the dorm, the residence was being painted and students were being shuffled around among the rooms, so she was allowed to live with her great-aunt. "I had to leave home at 9:30pm and transfer three times to get to work at Charity for 11pm. Vic said, *I'd be willing to pick you up and drive you if you would change my dressings.* Well, I jumped at the chance to get two more hours of sleep, so I agreed."

An Enduring Friendship

So Vic would pick her up and take her to work. "I couldn't do his dressing changes right away, because I had to give shots and take care of the patients, so he had to wait until 1 or 2 in the morning for me to be available. That's how he fell in with Sister Laurentia."

Sister Laurentia was the night nursing supervisor at Charity for over 30 years. She made the rounds of every unit, seven days a week, pushing a cart filled with drinks and snacks to feed the night staff. "She had keys to every unit so anything you needed, she would get for you. She had her own elevator where she kept all her supplies, and no one else was allowed to use it," remembers Rose Jeanne.

Hanging around the wards at night, Vic busied himself helping Sister Laurentia, and an enduring friendship was born. "He completely charmed her. He made her rounds with her - he was the only person who could ride in Sister Laurentia's elevator!" Vic loved to tease Sister Laurentia and he delighted in making her blush. "She adored him," laughs Rose Jeanne.



Driving, Then Dancing

Vic drove a '41 Chevy Club Coupe. "It was spotless inside and out. He would pick me up for work and we would go to a drive-in to get hamburgers since I couldn't go in a restaurant wearing my uniform." Before too long, they were dating. "We loved dancing and listening to music." They would go to Lenfant's, and parties on the roof of the Jung Hotel, "any place we could dance." They made friends among the New Orleans musicians. "One invited us to a wedding reception he was playing. I said to Vic, *We can't crash a wedding reception,* but Vic said, *Watch me!* That was his favorite line."

"I had never known anyone like Vic," says Rose Jeanne. "He was just so much fun. Nothing bothered him. He and I both had pretty tough childhoods. That had weighed on me a lot until I met Vic. But he let everything roll off. For Vic, life was a beautiful thing."

Vic was always broke on his tiny Reserves salary. One afternoon he picked up Rose Jeanne for a drive to the lakefront. "I was thinking about getting back and catching a few more hours of sleep before my shift when I saw his gas tank was on E! He tried to buy 50 cents worth of gas at a station. I gave him the couple of dollars I had so he could put gas in his tank and get me home!"

Looking to the Future

Rose Jeanne got the results of her Boards on the anniversary of Pearl Harbor Day. "I didn't even have to open the envelope because it was addressed to Rose J. Roussel, RN. I was so happy. I had always wanted to be a concert pianist. I went to nursing school as a way to make money so I could afford to attend Juilliard. But I loved being a nurse."

Even though they were sweethearts, Vic made it very clear that "he was having the time of his life" and was never going to marry. So Rose Jeanne was making her own plans. "I had gone to talk with the Army Nurse Corps, and they were ready to sign me up and ship me out of state the moment I got my license. But I thought, right now I'm dating a great guy and having the most fun I've ever had. I decided I would wait until after the holidays to enlist."

As the holidays approached, Rose Jeanne got angry about her schedule at Charity. "We all worked 7 days on, 2 days off. I agreed to work on Christmas so I could have New Year's Eve off. When I saw the schedule, I was on for eight days, getting off at 7am New Year's Day. So much for New Year's Eve! I thought it was very unfair, so I quit." Sister Laurentia heard about it and before long she had a private duty nurse job lined up for Rose Jeanne. "She made sure I had work."

"Don't Leave Me"

When Rose Jeanne told Vic she was planning to join the Army in the new year, "he flipped. He said, *You have to join the Navy!* But I said, *I can't swim!*" As a child, Rose Jeanne had seen someone drown, and was terrified of water. "No way was I joining the Navy!" she says. But that wasn't Vic's real problem.

Finally, it came out. "He said, *Don't leave me,*" Rose Jeanne recalls with a smile. "He asked me to marry him. I made him pick the date because I suspected he was stringing me along. But he set it for February 1, 1950." And on that day, she became Rose Jeanne Buccola, RN.

Vic was a station-keeper at the lakefront Naval Air Station (where UNO is now located) and Rose Jeanne went back to work at Charity Hospital. "Dr. Nix delivered our first baby at Charity. He was going to let Vic put on scrubs and be there for the birth – they didn't let fathers



do that then! He could have made history! But Vic wouldn't do it," laughs Rose Jeanne. Sister Laurentia gave Rose Jeanne a silver rosary to celebrate the birth. "I still treasure it."

Seeing the World

They had two more children. Vic went career in the U.S. Air Force Security Service with top clearance. He served in Morocco for a year before moving the family to Texas. They went on to live on Okinawa, in Japan and in Germany. Rose Jeanne would work at the military hospitals wherever Vic was stationed. When they returned to New Orleans, she became a nurse with the Customs Service. Vic retired from the military, then worked as courtroom deputy in the U.S. District Court in New Orleans. They settled, finally, in Destrehan.

Charity Connection

Rose Jeanne has always been actively involved in the Charity Alumni Association, and served as Executive Director for several years. After she and Vic retired, they bought a motor home and toured the U.S. and Canada. Whatever city they visited, Rose Jeanne would pull out the Alumni Directory, call any graduates who lived there and organize an alumni get-together. Charity was always a big part of their life together, and "Everyone loved Vic!"

65 Beautiful Years

In his last years, Vic's health declined. In May 2015, Rose Jeanne was addressing invitations to a birthday party that she planned for Vic in a couple of weeks. She reminded her husband that he would be 90 years old soon. "He seemed a little surprised, but he smiled and nodded, then he said, *That's a whole lot of old.*" Vic died later that night. →

"We had 65 beautiful years together," says Rose Jeanne. "In ten million years, I could not have found a better mate than Vic."

An Enduring Legacy

This fall, Rose Jeanne decided that the best memorial for Vic would be one he can share with Sister Laurentia, who passed away in 1973. "They were just such good friends." With a gift of \$10,000 to the Delgado Foundation, which was matched with \$10,000 from the Louisiana Board of Regents, Rose Jeanne established an endowed scholarship she chose to name the **Sister Laurentia Walsh D.C. Scholarship in Memory of Victor and Rose Jeanne Roussel Buccola '49**. "I figure it will be in my memory too, before long," she chuckles.

The individual scholarships will be paid for by the interest and dividends from investment of the funds, so the principal will stay intact in order to continue to assist outstanding Charity students indefinitely.

Rose Jeanne wants the Sister Laurentia Scholarship to go to students who plan to continue their education and get a BSN. She also hopes it will encourage students to work the night shift because Sister Laurentia worked nights for all those years. "That would really be a great legacy for her," says Rose Jeanne.

Struggling Students

Vic and Rose Jeanne were both poor growing up. Rose Jeanne was from a broken home, and she and her younger brother spent years in an orphanage (which is where she learned to play the piano). So Rose Jeanne is very attuned to the financial struggles of nursing students. In her first semester at Charity, she broke her eyeglasses, but simply had no money for new ones. Her grades were suffering because she couldn't see the chalkboard and the guidance counselor called her in. When Rose Jeanne explained the problem, "she picked up the phone and called an eye doctor in the Maison Blanche Building on Canal Street. She told him she was sending me over for new glasses, gave me ten dollars to pay him, and off I went. Then she put me to work for the rest of the year playing piano for all the events at the school to pay off the loan." (The job had an unexpected fringe benefit. She was named *Most Talented* in three consecutive yearbooks - a Charity record!)

Helping with Education

After Rose Jeanne was married, her younger brother asked her for a loan so he could go to college. "Vic and I had a new baby and a mortgage, and I just didn't have the money to help him. I felt terrible." Her brother was able to borrow from friends and did graduate from college, going on to become a successful businessman. "But I always regretted that I wasn't able to help him go to college," says Rose Jeanne.

Now, this endowment will be assisting Charity students with their education for generations to come. "It means a

lot to me to know I will be helping students," says Rose Jeanne. And now a great Charity love story will live on forever, too.

"I know Sister Laurentia is in heaven," says Rose Jeanne. "I think Vic is there, too. I hope he isn't teasing her too much!" ❖



The Sister Laurentia Walsh D.C.

Scholarship in Memory of Victor and Rose Jeanne Roussel Buccola '49 will be the fourth Charity Alumni Endowed Scholarship Fund created in partnership

with the Delgado Foundation. The initial \$20,000 creating this endowment will be invested by the Delgado Foundation, but it will take two or three years for sufficient interest and dividends to accrue to start funding the scholarship.

The Alumni Board decided we didn't want to wait that long! In September, the Alumni Association awarded the first Sister Laurentia Walsh Scholarship to **Monica Hevessey**, a Level 2 student. The \$500 scholarship was made possible by generous donations from **Madeline Tolson Markwood '52**, **Sydney Wood Womack '57**, **Martha Meaux Genin '65** and **Judith Monell Holbert '66**.

If you would like to help us maintain the Sister Laurentia Scholarship until the endowment fund kicks in, we would really appreciate it! Use the form on page 22, or you can donate online at our website: www.CharityAlumni.org. ❖

The End of the Oak

In 2016, the magnificent oak tree behind the School of Nursing was dedicated as the **Sister Stanislaus Memorial Oak** and listed in the Registry of the Louisiana Live Oak Society. The tree was profiled a year ago in the 2016 *Alumni News*, and featured on the 2017 Alumni Association pocket planners. A metal plaque (donated by **Margaret Palmisano '49**) was installed in honor of Sister Stanislaus Malone.

Unfortunately, in August 2017, in the midst of the heavy rainstorms that flooded much of the city, the Sister Stanislaus Memorial Oak was uprooted. It was felled by the weight of the water in its enormous canopy combined with damage to the root system from paving and shell backfill done many years ago. It was a sad day!

Luckily (or perhaps by the grace of Sister Stanislaus) the tree fell away from the school and did no damage to our buildings. (Some ventilation equipment at the VA got a little flattened.)

We never knew the exact age of the oak, but we have photographs that seem to indicate that it must have been planted shortly after the dorm was constructed, so it was

easily over 75 years old. It was 13.5 feet in girth and the spread of its branches was over 90 feet.

A New Memorial?

We are grateful that we decided to make a fuss over the oak when we did, and so sorry to lose it. The dead tree has been removed, and the Board is now pondering whether to replace it. The dorm is already the "Sister Stanislaus Memorial," but do we want to plant a new tree? Pick a new location? Maybe put a bench in the patio instead? There is already a Sister Stanislaus graduation award, but no scholarship in her name. Would that be a better use of funds? We welcome your suggestions. Let us know what you think. Call, write or email us with your ideas! ❖

Memories of Sister Stanislaus

By Ursula Allain '65



Sister Stanislaus Malone was in the first graduating class of Charity Hospital School of Nursing in 1895 and served as Director of Nursing at Charity Hospital from 1914 to 1945. After rereading *A Nun with a Gun*, her fascinating, surprising and often very funny biography by Eddie Doherty, I was inspired to contact some of the alumni who were students during Sister Stanislaus' time at Charity, to ask for their personal recollections.

Everyone remarks on her humanity, compassion, caring, charity to others, gentleness when it was needed, and sternness when it was warranted. She doesn't seem to have ever raised her voice - the raising of an eyebrow was more than enough.

Whenever Sister Stanislaus attended a mandatory student meeting, the nursing students were always excited because they knew they would be getting a few hours of time off (which was greatly appreciated).

When interns or residents partied too much and came in tipsy, Sister would send an orderly to take them to their rooms and watch over them.

In the Garden

Sister Stanislaus would regularly sit in the garden area outside the Sisters' home, invariably reading her prayer book. She always took time to speak to students who happened to stop by. If someone was in need, she would open her book and there tucked between the pages, as if by divine providence, would be the few dollars that were needed to avert a crisis.



At Sister's funeral mass and procession in 1949 (above), nursing students lined the steps of St. Joseph's Church as the casket was brought in and out of the church for the mass. Everyone wondered who was taking care of the patients because it seemed every nurse and doctor from Charity Hospital was there at the funeral.

Thanks to **Elizabeth Knight Vanderwall '42, Julie Chappuis Gutierrez '46, Rose Jeanne Roussel Buccola '49 and Julia Bull Schomaker '52** for sharing their memories. ❖

Wanted: 1958 Yearbook

Our library has copies of every Charity yearbook except 1958. We only have one or two copies of several other yearbooks in the late 50s. If you can part with your copy, please send it to us so there will be a complete collection of yearbooks - and memories - at the school! ❖

Recognitions

These twenty-one Charity Alumni that were among the Great 100 Nurses honorees for 2017:

Delores Carmouche Demma '78

Anne Romig Tucker '79

Lori Monte Besselman '82

Vanessa Druen Bergeron '87

Albertine Cordova Burgos '89

Rosemarie de la Tour '90

Patricia Dougherty Clesi '91

Andrea Thibodeaux '92

Angela Davis-Collins '93

Ann Boudreaux Mouille '96

Roxanne LeBlanc McNally '97

Scott Duhon '99

Christine Thompson Bromley '02

Ashley Guidry Abboud '08

Nicole Tucker '10

Rachel Ferguson '11

Lisa Gelpi '11

Karla O'Rourke '13

Lacie Riviere '13

Paulette Guidry Lill '14

Dorothy Thomas Buggage '15



Nurses are selected for the honor based on their concern for humanity, their contribution to nursing, and their mentoring of others. The award celebration was held on October 18.



Kimberly Uddo, faculty member at Delgado Charity School of Nursing, was named one of the New Orleans *CityBusiness* Women of the Year for 2017. Uddo was nominated for her positive beliefs, ideas and efforts in community college preparation of nurses. She has served as president of the Greater New Orleans Chapter of the

American Association of Critical-Care Nurses, which received the national *Excellence in Chapter Leadership Award*. Uddo also received the *2017 Delgado Endowed Professor Award* sponsored by East Jefferson General Hospital. In 2014, she received the Loyola University New Orleans *Nightingale Award* at her graduation with a Doctor of Nursing Practice degree.

Paige Sensenbrenner '78 (New Orleans, LA): A senior partner-in-charge at Adams and Reese law firm in New Orleans, Paige was named a sustaining member of the Product Liability Advisory Council Inc. in September.



The invitation-only nonprofit association was formed in 1983 to analyze and shape the law of product liability and complex litigation, and membership includes product manufacturers and product liability defense councils in the US and abroad. Paige's practice includes pharmaceutical and medical device products liability, pharmaceutical pricing claims, insurance fraud, toxic torts and accounting malpractice/fraud, government relations and health care. Paige also serves as outside counsel for the Louisiana Organ Procurement Agency and the Louisiana Cancer Research Center.

Yvette Bertaut '87 (Metairie, LA): Yvette has been vice-president of Patient Care Services at Ochsner Medical Center since 2013. During her 27 years at Ochsner, she has held a variety of nursing and administrative positions in human resources, acute and post acute care, behavioral health, respiratory and therapy services. Yvette has served as MSN/BSN preceptor for the schools of nursing at LSU Health Sciences and University of Alabama since 2011. She will be among the faculty for the *Nurse Leadership Institute* sponsored by the Louisiana Action Coalition in January 2018.

Joan "Ecoee" Rooney '99

(New Orleans, LA): Ecoee has worked in professional development for 13 years. Her experience includes developing preceptor programs and teaching skills in leadership, colleague care and peace in the workplace. Rooney is certified as a compassion fatigue educator and is a chapter co-author in the new core curriculum for nursing professional development through ANPD. She is currently director of Nursing Professional Development and Evidence Based Practice and Wound, Ostomy and Continence Nursing at Ochsner Medical Center, New Orleans. Ecoee will be one of the faculty for the *Nurse Leadership Institute* sponsored by the Louisiana Action Coalition in January 2018.



Brandy Johnson Barbarin '04 and Lista Hank '97 were named *Circles of Excellence Distinguished Alumni* for 2017 by Delgado Community College. The ceremony in November also included presentation of plaques to Delgado faculty and staff who have served for 37 or more

years. Nursing faculty members **Mary Trosclair '73** and **Dr. Nora Steele** were among the honorees, as was **Sandra Lewis Palmer** of the OR tech program.

Steven Lyon '04 (Harvey, LA): In September, Steve was named Unit Director for the Operating Room and Sterile Processing at Touro Infirmary in New Orleans. Steve



began his career as a registered nurse in Iraq. His Army National Guard unit was activated the day Steve graduated from nursing school. Upon his return from active duty in 2005, Steve worked in the Recovery Room at West Jefferson Medical Center. He became a staff nurse at Touro in 2007 on Med/Surg unit. He

became the night charge nurse on the Total Joint Unit in 2009, then later transferred to the Operating Room where he was the team leader of the Open-Heart unit. Most recently Steve served as Clinical Supervisor in One Day Surgery. He is planning to pursue a BSN through the University of Louisiana-Lafayette. ❖

School Memories

Marilyn Massey Carter '54 (San Antonio, TX): "I was a nursing student in June 1954 and I was working a rotation in the Emergency Room of Charity Hospital. I had just

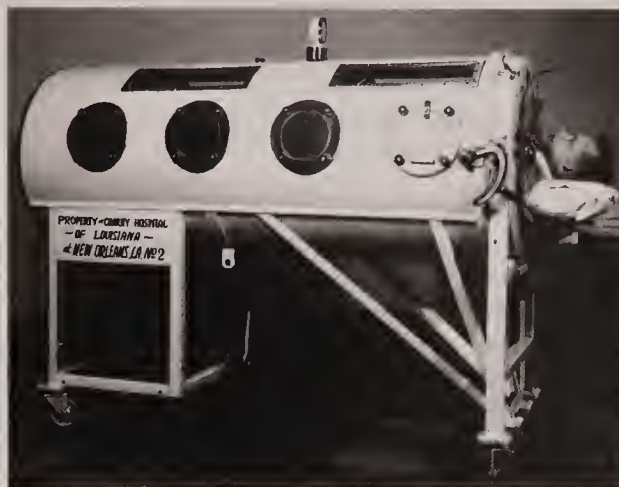
finished three months of psychiatric training and I felt physically and mentally worn out.

My first symptoms were a stiff neck, bad headache, nausea and vomiting. I was admitted to the infirmary for nurses at the hospital. A spinal tap was done, and the diagnosis was either polio or meningitis. I was unable to void for a few days, after which I was sent back to my room.

I tried to work but my legs would not support me. I was then admitted to the polio center, which was in a separate building from other contagious diseases. There was another student nurse my age. She was an affiliate from Mississippi, from the small town of Crenshaw. Our beds were close together. Her back was giving her lots of pain.

I could not see my classmates because I was still contagious. I became very depressed, but they finally let my sister come to see me, which helped.

The iron lungs were all around us, going constantly, and very loud. They helped people breathe who had the



Bulbar type of polio. We received wonderful care, including hot towels from a machine three times a day, plus whirlpool baths. Everything was donated by the March of Dimes

campaign. It was a bad year for the polio epidemic in the U.S., and they were also flying in patients from Mexico.

After I recovered, I worked without pay in the TB sanitarium to pay back the hospital for the time I spent in the polio center in excess of my sick leave. By this time, all of my classmates had left CHSN to go on their way to a new life. I was blessed to be able to graduate and to work as a RN with my built-up shoe and a brace on my leg. I did school nursing, worked in doctors offices and nursing homes, and for five years in a prison hospital. I married and had three sons.

I was working at the University of Michigan in the summer of 1955 when Dr. Jonas Salk announced he had developed the polio vaccine. Such great news!

Now I have post-polio syndrome. The muscles that took over for the ones I lost to polio are now worn out. I would love to come to another reunion of my class, but I have trouble walking. It is much more difficult to do things with my legs growing weaker; however, I won't give up! I enjoy hearing from **Joycelyn Jeansonne '78** every Christmas. She has my Charity cape."

Patricia Kucera Ammon '58 (Metairie, LA): "I arrived in New Orleans on the train from central Florida in 1955. I had one Samsonite suitcase with no wheels. It was heavy and the handle broke, so I had to carry it in my arms. A friend from high school who was going to Tulane University picked me up from the train station and took me to the student nurse residence.

I arrived a day or two before my classmates and was assigned a room on the sixth floor. The first morning I looked down in the garden and saw Sister Urban cutting roses. She was wearing a full navy blue habit with the starched, snowy-white coronet. It took my breath away! I had never seen a Catholic nun. I felt overwhelmed and scared. I soon adjusted, though Sister Pauline could strike fear into anyone - especially if you'd done something wrong and had to go have a 'talk' with her.

All meals were served cafeteria style in the basement. Much of what was served was cooked in the hospital! →



and carted across in containers. Every Friday was fish, but despite the abundance of local seafood, it was always frozen cod. If you were not Catholic and didn't want the fish, you could eat leftovers from Thursday - usually hot dogs. Peanut butter and jelly sandwiches were available in the evenings. A dress had to be worn to meals and, since this was before permanent press, we would have two or three 'dinner dresses' that were easy to wash and iron.

We could wear shorts or jeans only off campus, so even if you were going on a picnic or to Pontchartrain Beach, you had to wear a raincoat over your sportswear until you got away from campus.

None of my classmates owned a car. I don't know where they would have parked anyway. We walked everywhere or took the streetcar. We would sign up to usher at the Municipal Auditorium so we could see operas and musical events. We would walk to the Auditorium, and back. I never felt afraid out walking at night.

Eight Dollar Days

Tuition for three years was \$250. You got room, board, books, twelve uniforms, a first pair of duty shoes, bandage scissors and a navy blue wool cape. After the first nine months we received a monthly stipend of \$10. The streetcar was 7 cents, postage stamps were 3 cents and a candy bar was a nickle. If you maintained an acceptable grade point average, you were allowed to work an extra shift at the hospital on your days off for \$8 a day.

Our lives were closely monitored. If you were going off campus, you had to sign out and in at the desk in the main lobby. We were allowed to go out in the evening four times per month until ten, and four times until midnight. To go away for a night you had to have a permission slip signed by your parents. Otherwise you were required to be in your room studying by eight o'clock. Rooms were checked by the hostess and you had better be there with a book and not putting pin curls in your hair. A bed check was made every night.

There was no air conditioning in the dorm or the hospital, but we had a ceiling fan in our dorm room.

The uniform dress code was detailed and strict. There was no panty hose then, so we wore a garter belt to keep our white stockings up. White cotton hose had to be worn in the operating room. No jewelry of any kind, no nail polish and a hair net had to be worn no matter how short your hair was. No hair could touch your collar.

Engagements

There were no male students or black students. Everyone had to live in the dorm and married students were not allowed. If you got married (and it was discovered), you were out. Consequently, there were many students sporting engagement rings - not in class or at work, of course. Many weddings took place in the days following graduation - including mine!

All too soon it was August 1958. Dwight Eisenhower was President, Earl K. Long was Governor of Louisiana.

Alaska and Hawaii were not yet states, but would be the following year. Fresh faced and eager, we left our dear Charity, our home for the last three years, full of knowledge and skills to begin a new phase of our lives as registered nurses."

Rosemary Myers Breau '58 (*Clinton, LA*): "The years I spent at Charity were the best years of my life. I met my



husband of 58 years there. He was a cousin of my classmates, **Patricia and Sheila Bourgeois**. Gerald Breau was my soul mate and best friend. We had three beautiful children, two boys and a girl, four grandchildren and two great grandchildren. I lost my dear Gerald in May of this year, but we enjoyed life to the fullest. I am sending my dues and a donation. I would love to see my classmates again. I would love to say hello to my

roommate **Jody Jacobs**. I think of everyone and the good times we had often. Everyone, take care and God bless!"

Mary Kathryn Anderson (*Atlanta, GA*): "I was Mamie Anderson then and now. I was in the 9/10/65 class, but did not graduate. I have wonderful memories of Charity! I remember Ann Tomsu from Texas, BJ and Jean from New Orleans. Jean's family hosted us for many gumbo meals. So much laughter!

I would love to get back in touch with my classmate Maureen Mahoney. She was a bean pole, called herself Bony Mahoney. Wicked sense of humor with a ready laugh, a quick study with a tidy desk and good penmanship. She and I ate ice cream sundaes from Meal-A-Minute and shared shoes (my shoes were too big for her so she stuffed toilet paper in the toes).



We waded in the fountain to collect coins for quarter beers, and rode street cars with one transfer for hours. We climbed on the above ground cemeteries. We were fearless. Dumb, too. We washed our clothes at a local laundromat and overloaded the washers with clothes and too much soap. We flooded the floor and were so embarrassed that our underwear was floating in the bubbles.

If I remember correctly, we were required to wear dresses any time we were outside the dorm. Hot, humid dorm rooms. I had to learn how to wind my own alarm clock without my mother there to wake me. I had to learn

how to light a match so I could smoke - I wanted so much to fit in. Fortunately, I outgrew my tobacco habit.

The public libraries allowed card holders to check out pictures. I hung a large copy of *Starry Night* over my bed because it matched. I had no appreciation of Van Gogh. There was one dial phone propped on a short stand at the end of the hall. I don't think there was a time limit on calls - if a caller got through.

In our first semester, my expensive capped tooth broke off. Because I was afraid to tell my parents that I broke it again (and because it was almost impossible to hold in - even with a dollop of pink tooth wax), I usually kept my front tooth out unless a new date was cute. For our Christmas play, I kept it out as I sang, *All I want for Christmas is my two front teeth*. I can remember how pleased I was with myself when the audience of students laughed!

Darker Days

We had a TV in the dorm lounge which broadcast news of the Cuban Missile standoff (Oct 22 - my 18th birthday). We pre-clinical nursing students didn't breathe. We remembered our prayers and searched for our rosaries.

Mahoney and other classmates treated me to a birthday breakfast at a fancy restaurant - white tablecloths, real silver flatware and crystal glasses. We used our church company manners. The gloved waiter pulled out his silver lighter when we elegantly waved our unfiltered Camels, and we blew smoke circles. We hoped that we were noticed. Hoped that we didn't look 18. Twenty five was a good number.

Our Anatomy and Physiology instructor was excellent and demanding. We gave her wide berth. On our final exam we had to identify bones, and Sister tried to trick us by including a femur of an infant. But upper classmates had warned us!

Our Psychology instructor would tap on the microphone and say *One, Two, Three* in Cajun. The Sister who counseled me for my borderline grades also said that I should wear lipstick. I thought that was odd. We had the waxy, reddish tubes that melted in the heat.

Lessons Learner, Rules Broken

We grew up fast in the wards where 10 beds were filled with pitifully ill patients. They always seemed to be in good spirits. At Charity they had a bed and meals and plenty of attention from Tulane and LSU med students in new white jackets and from us in our stiff, starched uniforms and white tie-up shoes.

When I needed to collect a sputum specimen from a patient, I held the glass tube for her with my ungloved hand. Next time, I let the patient hold the specimen tube. Another student introduced herself in her usual perky voice to a patient who seemed to be sleeping. She took his temperature, three times. The mercury wouldn't register. Then she realized that her patient was dead. Not even warm.

Charity had state of the art operating rooms, but even complicated surgeries came back to the wards. Often a patient would hold up her gown to show me *what the doctor found*.

Meals were a time to barter food. Two hard boiled eggs for one banana would be traded from bed to bed. Special diets were ignored.

In the dorm, we also ignored rules like sit at your desk from 7pm until 9pm, lights out at 11pm. At the age of 18, we were not afraid of too much. But on the night that a 'bad man' was found in the dorms in the 5th floor stairwell, we huddled together. I remember the armed police in our building. They apprehended the intruder.

The Psych Ward was directly across from the back of the dorm. A few of our classmates witnessed a man jumping out a window. I wondered why windows in a psych ward weren't nailed shut.

I was homesick, and not ready for the demands of nursing school. I welcomed my failing grades. I did not accept the opportunity to repeat some classes. Mahoney and a handful of friends waved to me as I was sitting on the train heading home. Mahoney told me that I was well liked. I think I cried.

I completed my nursing degree ten years later in Jacksonville, FL. I have practiced approximately 30 years in Atlanta. It has been a joy for me."

Ella Ramagos Knight '72 (Prairieville, LA): "The education and experience I received at Charity was priceless. After graduation I worked for a year on Ortho-



Neuro at Charity. Then I moved to Memphis, TN, after getting married. What a shock to work in a private hospital! I quickly adjusted, but I missed Charity so much.

We returned to Louisiana several years later and lived in my hometown of Morganza in Point Coupee Parish for 42 years. My career took me to the Home Health field. It was very different from hospital nursing

but I have used all of my skills from Pediatrics to Geriatrics! I have been able to see Home Health progress and advance to the performance of many critical skills being done in the home. Many times I have had to improvise while performing tasks in the home - like using deer antlers for IV poles! It was a natural for me as I got to care for so many people that I knew. The appreciation from my patients and their families was such a great reward - as it had been from the patients we all cared for at Charity.

I enjoyed 23 years of Home Health and when our agency, Point Coupee Homebound Health and →

Hospice, opened a hospice agency I was recruited to work in hospice. I was Clinical Manager and enjoyed 15 years of caring for hospice patients and their families. Hospice is truly a ministry and I am so blessed to have had the experience.

In 2016, my husband and I retired. We relocated to Prairieville, LA, and are enjoying our 3 children and 6 grandchildren, Thank you, Charity for molding me into the person I am today!"

Andree Pere Blakemore '85 (Metairie, LA): "I haven't been in the building in many, many years, but I dream about riding in the elevators all the time! I dream of the little ladies operating the elevators and how they used to have to go up and down to get the elevator even with the floor. In my dreams, I am always jumping out of the elevator so it doesn't get me! I loved my time at Charity. We had so much fun. I loved going to mass in the basement. What a great walk through Memory Lane!" ❖



Into the Nursing World

Sister Miriam Rivera, S. de Martinez '16 (Newbury, CA): Sister Miriam graduated from Charity in December 2016, and the following spring was sent by her order to join the staff at Mary Health of the Sick Convalescent and Nursing Hospital in California.

"I'm starting to find my way. As a Sister, I have always strived to live my vocation with passion but now, serving officially as a nurse, it reinforces and fulfills my vocation before God and the world.

The motto of my life has been: *There is no greater love than to lay down one's life for a friend* (John 15:13) and this love has grown and I've seen it fulfilled every day with deeper conviction. In thinking how God works to bring us where we are, I see my life in the right place. All that I am, have, and can be, finds its fulfillment in this home. This place, Mary Health of the Sick, is the workplace where God waited for me and prepared me to come.

I'm still working to get my nursing skills firmly established, but I guess it comes with experience, along with feeling confident in my new role. But, I am not alone. I can count on so many around me. I know that with their help and examples, I will be succeed.

I feel that in this place my heart, mind, and vision have widened to embrace in heart and prayer all those God has

entrusted to our prayer. Not just the residents but, also, the other staff. And what is that but *the true spirit of Charity* that was firmly rooted in me when I was in your midst.

The End was a New Beginning

Finishing nursing school was a great accomplishment in grace, and I had the prayers and encouragement of so many. At the end I could see that it was really just the beginning of a world filled with so many meaningful and new opportunities. I knew my life would never be the same after all the knowledge and experience I have gained. But, above all, becoming a nurse has truly committed me to humanity.

As a new nurse, I face a challenging world of medicine. In spite of the great preparation I received in nursing school, I still have so much to learn - about how to coordinate skills with love and compassion, too.



Charting, supervision, reports, and doctor's new orders, in addition to family at the bedside wanting answers and reassurance. So much information to acquire and organize! So many responsibilities! But I have realized what is the most important, the *essential*, that I can not ignore.

The One I Come to Serve

The patient who is entrusted to my care each day is the one I come to serve. He is someone who was well, but things have changed. What is his story? Is he afraid? Is he in pain?

I realize I needed to ponder and examine myself. How can I keep up in order to give to each one not just my skills, but my nurse's heart, the greatest gift I have to offer. That is what is *most* important in my vocation.

Just a few extra seconds, a loving touch, or a kind word can make a big difference in each patient's life. I've learned that sometimes illness is partnered with solitude and lack of love - and that can be alleviated with a peaceful spirit or a simple smile to show you care.

The Road Before Me

This is the spirit of the true Charity Nurse, and with great joy I understand better now that we are called to bring healing, our presence, and love. We are the good Samaritan for those we find on our road. I truly see that, to be a good nurse, I must deal with all in the challenges with patience and humility.

How proud I am to have this common last name of 'Charity.' I gain so much from the wisdom and experiences of others, and I am in a very privileged place: to see not just my perspective, but the firm road of wisdom that others have walked before me. *Ad Majorem Dei Gloriam.*" ❖

Classmates Create New Scholarship

We always say there are no friends like the friends you make at Charity. There is one group of classmates who are not only proving that adage, but showing that their 50-plus years of friendship is enriched by helping others.

Class of 1964 friends **Marilee Keating Phillips** and **Judy Wellman Quigley** were making plans to visit classmate **Estelle LeBlanc Rome** this past September. Estelle had invited them, along with **Charlotte Voinche Guinn** and all their husbands, to her son's lakehouse in Birmingham, Alabama.

A Gift Idea

"We were tossing around ideas for a gift for Estelle," says Marilee. "We decided that she would most enjoy some sort of monetary gift to go to Charity School of Nursing. We thought of a scholarship." But they did not want it to be just a one-time award. "We wanted it to be an ongoing scholarship. We decided to name it after our **CHSN Class of 09/11/1964**, with the first award to honor Estelle and her husband Robert, and our seventeen classmates who have passed away."

Judy, Charlotte and Marilee would provide the initial amount to establish the scholarship fund, then they would invite the rest of our classmates to donate money to the fund. "They can give in honor of our classmates who have died, or for someone dear to them," says Marilee.

Among the criteria for scholarship recipients will be plans to continue their nursing education. "We want to encourage Charity students who intend to go on for their BSN degree."

Marilee, Judy and Charlotte made an initial donation of \$2,000 to establish the CHSN Class of 09/11/1964 Scholarship Fund and presented a certificate to Estelle announcing the new scholarship during their visit. The first scholarship award will be presented in Spring 2018.

A Testament to Friendship

This is not the first time this group of friends has joined together to make a gift more meaningful by benefitting the Charity community. Last year, Marilee, Estelle and their husbands visited Judy and her husband James in California and they wanted to show their appreciation for Judy's hospitality. They made a generous gift in Judy's honor to Charity alumni **Kassidy Prestenbach '11**, who needed assistance to purchase specialized prosthetic hands (her hands and legs were amputated due to septic shock).

These gifts are a moving testament to a great and lasting friendship that began so many years ago at Charity School of Nursing.

Join With Your Classmates

If you are from the Class of 09/11/1964 and would like to contribute to this scholarship fund, you can use the form



Left to right, top to bottom: Marilee Phillips, Charlotte Guinn and Judy Quigley present Estelle Rome with a certificate announcing the CHSN Class of 9/11/1964 Scholarship.

on page 22. "We will be contacting our classmates to encourage their participation," says Marilee. "We want this scholarship to continue for years to come." ❖

Reunion Plans

Class of 2008: 10 Years
Contact Jessica Raibstein
Mackenroth at
jessmac319@gmail.com



Class of 1988: 30 Years
Contact **Tami Blanchard** at tami_blanchard@msn.com.

Class of 1968: 50 Years
We're celebrating our 50th reunion the same weekend as the Alumni Breakfast on September 22, 2018. Contact **Cindy Beniger** at ccbsinger@aol.com.

Class of 1963: 55 Years
Contact **Karen Bradley** at kbrad56@gmail.com.

You can plan a reunion for your class! Contact the Alumni Office to get a class list. ❖

Goodbyes

Capt. Richard Whynot: In 2003, Richard created a scholarship for Charity nursing students in memory of his recently deceased wife, a 1946 graduate. **Mary Ann Signorelli** was part of the Cadet Nurse Corps, a program



created to address the nursing shortage caused by World War II. She served as ship's nurse on the *USNS General Hersey* (where she met Richard, the ship's navigation officer) and on the *General Stewart* carrying

displaced persons from Europe to the US, Canada, Australia and South America after the war. Mary Ann and Richard both served in the US Army Transportation Services and U.S. Navy Military Sea Transportation Services during the Korean War. Richard commanded in the US Coast Guard Reserve, later becoming a civilian engineer and consultant. After retiring he became a researcher and lecturer on military and Spanish Colonial history. Richard passed away in September and his family asked that contributions in his memory be made to the **Mary Ann Signorelli Whynot Scholarship** at Charity.

Edna Gannon Treuting '46:

Edna was part of the Cadet Nurse Corps at Charity. World War II ended in 1945, and Edna was able to complete her service at Charity Hospital in the "premature nursery" rather than a military posting. After a number of years there, she took a break to raise her children, then returned to nursing as a teacher. She earned a Masters of Public Health and Doctorate in Medical Care Administration from Tulane University. She became a professor there, then Dean of Nursing at Our Lady of Holy Cross College, then later the Chief Nurse of the Louisiana Department of Health. She was a trailblazer in the medical field. In 1972, Edna presented a proposal for the Nurse Practitioner Program to the state. Thanks to her research, passion and documentation of the potential benefits, the Nurse Practitioner program was approved. Today she is known as the matriarch of all the Nurse Practitioners in Louisiana.



Jean Carrigan '47: Jean came to Charity from Arkansas, joining the Cadet Nurse Corps. A few years ago, Jean

wrote this to us: "I could never have gone to Charity without the Cadet Nurse Corps. I'm so grateful for the opportunity it gave me. I spent my Senior Cadet period at DePaul Sanitarium in New Orleans.

From 1947 to 1984, I worked at the Veterans Administration Medical Center in Fayetteville, Arkansas. I was proud to be

awarded the Administrator's Hands and Heart Award, given annually to recognize an outstanding employee for exceptional, sustained, compassionate, direct patient care. The Cadet Corps and Charity enabled me to do this."

Jean retired from the VA after 37 years as operating room supervisor and infection control nurse, but barely slowed down. She volunteered with the American Red Cross, Planned Parenthood, and Washington Regional Medical Center where she spent years as the surgical waiting room volunteer. "She never retired from helping people," a news article about her said. After moving into a retirement community, Jean organized a volunteer service to help other residents get to their doctor appointments. "Some people just need physical help, but others need me to go with them and write down what the doctor says so they can tell their family later," said Jean. "I've had a lot of practice listening to doctors and asking questions."

Jean died in March 2017, and we received a wonderful box from her niece, Jo Wilson of Arkansas. "My aunt Jean passed away in March at age 91. She was a proud graduate of Charity School of Nursing. These are some items she kept that I thought you might like to have." The box was full of treasures: Jean's diploma and nursing license, her cape, a letter from the Charity registrar responding to her request for an application and information about the Cadet Nurse Corps, a handout from a Class Reunion, a 1946 yearbook, a class photo, a program from the June 1946 Commencement, a student handbook from 1943, a 1943 medical dictionary, a book of devotional readings given to her by a classmate, articles and letters and a beautiful portrait of Jean as a Nurse Cadet. They are wonderful mementos of a nursing life well-lived, and will be added to our archives.



Beryl O'Reilly Freeman '47: "For some time, I have meant to write to see if my mother could be mentioned in your *In Memoriam* section. She was a graduate of Charity Hospital School of Nursing Class of '47. Mom died June 21, 2016, from complications of Parkinson's Disease. One of the highlights of her later years was attending her 50 year reunion with my dad, Sol J. Freeman. They met when he was an intern at Charity Hospital. My five brothers and I were raised hearing many colorful stories about Mom's

and Dad's days at CHNO! Your newsletters were always such a treat for her." - *Keila Martin*

Elizabeth Jean Myers Reiter '54: "I am writing to tell you that one of my dear classmates, Joyce Reiter, known as "BJ" (Betty Jean Myers), passed away July 25, 2017. I met Joyce at CHSN in September of 1951 and we became great friends. We graduated in August of 1954. Joyce was from Biloxi, Mississippi, and her family took me in as another daughter. I was from Tennessee and could only go home once a year, so it was great to have a second home." - *Marilyn Massey Carter '54*

Virginia "Ginny" Fridal '56: Ginny graduated from Bob Jones University in 1953 and from CHSN in 1956. She became a missionary nurse with Sudan Interior Mission (SIM), and spent over 40 years in medical work in Niger, West Africa, mostly with leprosy patients. She retired to Florida in 2000, and passed away in April of 2017.

Peggy Jean Holden '66: "Peggy Holden expired in May 2017, leaving a void in a lot of lives. We were friends since our first day at CHSN when we were matched as roommates, and this is a difficult letter to write. Please accept the enclosed donation in Peggy's memory for a student in need - we both experienced that! During her three years at CHSN, Peggy worked extra on the units at Charity Hospital to finance her education and also to gain experience. After graduation, she rapidly became head nurse and then supervisor of a surgery unit. Later she returned to Covington to take care of her ailing parents and worked as a psychiatric home health nurse. One of 15 children, Peggy had tremendous loyalty and love for her large family and also for her patients. She touched a lot of lives with her generosity, both of time and finances. A fond farewell to a true friend and a dedicated nurse. We will miss her." - *Helen Devall '66*

Joan Trapani Ibos '66: Joan worked at St. Tammany Parish Hospital for 45 years. She passed away in October 2017. Her classmate Roberta Bartee sent a donation in Joan's memory. "We shared many clinical rotations and I remember her as a good nurse and a fine friend."

Michael Lloyd Eastin '71: Michael was the first male graduate of Charity, earning his diploma in July 1971. He went on to become a Nurse Anesthetist. He lived in Louisiana, loved Cajun music and cooking, and spent much of his free time hunting and fishing. He also enjoyed coaching youth soccer, and his teams won several local and state tournaments through the years. He passed away in June 2017 at the age of 72. ❖



In Memoriam

We publish the names of those alumni who have passed away as we learn of them, with their graduation year and date of death. Farewell to these friends:

Capt. Richard Whynot (9/8/17)
Edna Gannon Treuting '46 (11/13/17)
Jean Carrigan '47 (3/12/17)
Beryl O'Reilly Freeman '47 (6/21/16)
Betty Shoemaker Cook '49 (8/22/16)
Jean Wilkinson '50 (6/20/17)
Josephine Latino Fasone '51 (1/30/17)
Carolyn Pattison Roper '52 (2/7/17)
Elizabeth Myers Reiter '54 (7/25/17)
Virginia "Ginny" Fridal '56 (4/27/17)
Elizabeth Beard Gardiner '57 (5/1/17)
Peggy Jean Holden '66 (5/1/17)
Joan Trapani Ibos '66 (10/9/17)
Emily Nell Sansbury Mulkey Kircher '67 (11/19/17)
Michael Lloyd Eastin '71 (6/13/17)
Judith "Judy" Crappel Perez '82 (6/23/17)
Abby Lynn Landry '88 (8/27/17)
Deidre Lynn Markey '03 (6/28/17)



Charity Ambulance

The Charity Ambulance was spotted at the World War II Museum's *Air, Sea & Land Festival* in October!

Margaret Gay '66 sent us these photos that she took at the New Orleans Lakefront Airport event. The antique World War II ambulance was donated to the Museum by the Charity Alumni Association as part of our Homecoming Celebration in 2006.



CASN Members Soar with Spirit

By Brittany Brignac, CASN President

The Charity Association of Student Nurses (CASN), had a very productive semester, from participating in community events to attending the state student nurses convention.

Since our last report, CASN and the Charity School of Nursing organized and assisted the Blood Center with a blood drive held on October 9 in the first floor lobby. Our goal was to beat the 29 pints of blood collected last semester. We exceeded our goal with a total of 39 pints!

CASN partnered with Second Harvest Food Bank and held a donation drive for the victims of Hurricane Harvey. We asked our fellow school organizations (SGA, SAC, and Spectrum) to assist with this drive. Items collected included canned goods, diapers, hygiene items, bottled water, and cleaning supplies. We collected over 500 pounds of donated items.

We volunteered for the *Out of Darkness Walk* at Audubon Park on September 16. The community walk raises awareness, encourages education and advocates for public policy to prevent suicide.

CASN members attended the Alumni Breakfast in September where we sold t-shirts, jackets and other items from the CASN store and networked with Charity Alumni. It is always an enjoyable time to hear the stories of the nurses whose shoes we hope to fill one day. Thank you for having us as your guests.

State Convention

Thirteen Charity students attended the LASN (Louisiana Association of Student Nurses) convention held in Baton Rouge on October 6-8. We represented CASN in all of the House of Delegate meetings, at the Opening Keynote, Candidate Luncheon, and House of Delegates Voting. We also attended many focus sessions including Neuroscience, Opioid Use Disorder, Trauma Nursing, ICU Nursing, ER Nursing, Pediatrics with Autism, Waterbirths, and Leadership. We attended the opening night party titled "Nursing Unmasked" where all the students dressed up in matching *Super RN* t-shirts paired with a wide variety of masks and funny accessories.

Four CASN members ran for board positions on the LASN Board of Directors. We now have two members who are part of the 2018 LASN Board! We congratulate **Lindsey McDaniel**, the new LASN Historian, and **Megan Guitreau**, the new LASN Fundraiser Coordinator.



CASN also won the award for "Best Scrapbook Cover" thanks to our very own CASN Historian, **Maria Santiago**. The convention was truly a memorable experience filled with valuable educational and professional opportunities!

Saints and Spooks

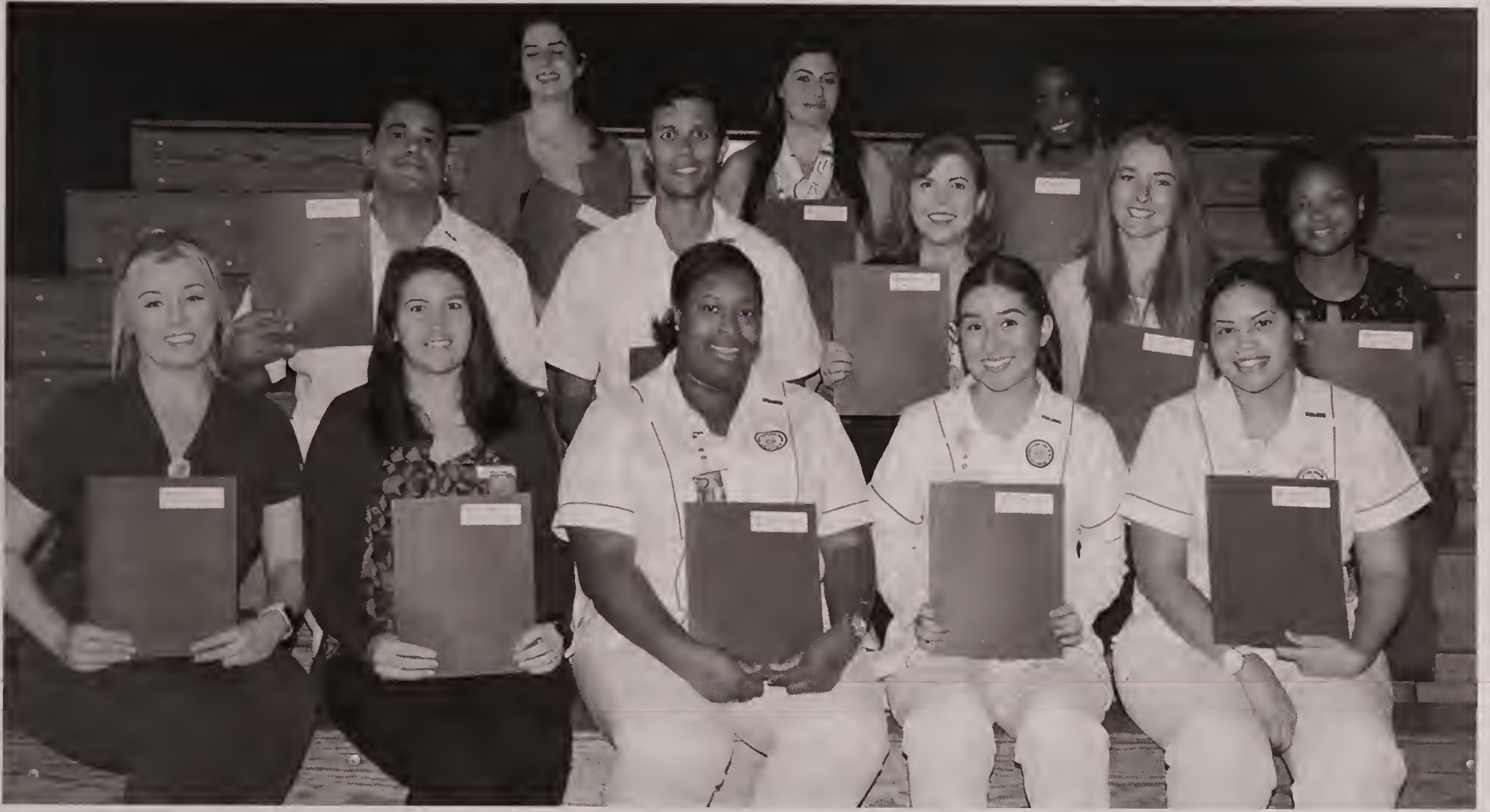
On October 15, CASN held a parking fundraiser in the CSN parking garage for the New Orleans Saints football game. We had five Charity student volunteers and raised over \$2,000 from this one event! This is the main way we raise money to attend state and national student nurse conventions. We will hold another Saints parking fundraiser in November. If you go to the Saints games, please come and park at Charity!

CASN, along with many other local organizations, volunteered for *Boo at the Zoo* at the Audubon Zoo on October 20 and 27. We had fifteen volunteers who assisted in the main game area, entertaining lots of little ghosts and goblins. What a fun event!

As the semester closes, the pinning ceremony for the graduating seniors is scheduled for December 11. CASN members will volunteer to usher and assist during the ceremony.

We would like to thank the alumni for all your continued leadership and support. We know that with your inspiration we will succeed as leaders in our time here at Charity - as well as in our future careers. ❖





Fall 2017 Scholarships & Awards

The Charity Hospital School of Nursing Alumni Association presented the following scholarships and awards, totaling \$7,700, to students of Charity School of Nursing on September 11, 2017, at the Promotion and Awards Ceremony. Congratulations to these students:

Pictured left to right, front row to back:

LEVEL 2

Mary Billiot

Sister Blanche McDonnell D.C. Scholarship \$500

Monica Hevessy

Sister Laurentia Walsh D.C. Scholarship \$500

LEVEL 3

Martynenez Grigsby

Sister Camilla Gaudin D.C. Scholarship \$500

Stephanie Barrera

Leona Kruebbe Hilbert '46 Scholarship \$500

Desmetris Jones

Gloria Redmond Ashman '48 Scholarship \$500

Kevin Ayestas

Gloria Redmond Ashman '48 Scholarship \$500

Jacob Kindscher

Hugh and Maria Garcia Roach '38 Scholarship \$1,000

LEVEL 4

Aileen Frashier

Mary Ann Signorelli Whynot '46 Scholarship \$500

Molly Taylor

Joycelyn Gondolfo Jeansonne '78 Scholarship \$500

Melvina Thomas

Margaret Robichaux Elliott '49 Scholarship \$500

Margaret Tully

Sally Cooper '59 Alumni Scholarship \$1,000

PIN AWARDS

Lauren Griffin

Kirk LeVasseur '79 Pin Award

Adesola Omole

Rita Burrows Suhor Pin Award, mother of faculty member Patricia Smart

Not pictured:

The Federation of Registered Professional and Licensed Practical Nurses of Charity Hospital Awards

Janice Sullivan - RN Program \$500

Alexis Blake - PN Program \$500

All Alumni Association scholarships and awards are made possible by generous gifts from graduates, friends and family. Thank you to all who have donated to assist outstanding students of Charity School of Nursing. ❖

Big Charity Could Anchor Redevelopment District

In November, a panel of urban planning experts spent five days evaluating the shuttered Big Charity hospital for a land-use study commissioned by the LSU Health Sciences Center of New Orleans and the LSU Real Estate and Facilities Foundation.

Representatives of the nationally-recognized **Urban Land Institute** see a world of opportunity in the iconic limestone structure.

“The hospital can be the artistic centerpiece and a useful facility for the community,” said John Walsh, a Texas real estate consultant with the Urban Land Institute. The panel suggested forming “The Spirit of Charity Innovation and Tax Increment Financing District” surrounding the hospital. Tax revenue from within the district would seed the building's redevelopment.

The project could require about \$260 million to develop but, “It's about the vision, not the money,” said Tom Murphy, a former mayor of Pittsburgh who led an effort to convert an old steel mill into an \$800 million public-private Pittsburgh redevelopment cornerstone.

Walsh cautioned, “It won't happen if you don't have a process,” pointing out that there is currently no one entity in place to spearhead the project. The planners say the project should move forward on two tracks - one for the hospital and one for the district around it.

The panel noted the deep affection that the city has for the closed hospital, and called for an open and transparent process to determine what its future should be. A committee should be created representing a cross-section of local institutions and interests: hospitals, universities, the business community, the arts and nearby neighborhoods.

“I totally agree with the importance of bringing the neighborhood in because we destroyed a neighborhood to build the medical district,” said Jeanne Nathan, of the Creative Alliance of New Orleans. “The neighborhood needs to be welcomed back to the process.”

The ULI panel suggested that the best potential uses for the hospital would be educational and workforce development, a museum or retail space. A plan to move city government and local courts into the building was abandoned several years ago as not being cost effective, but the panel said it might work if there are other tenants. They also urged that the district be made more pedestrian friendly. Connectivity and walkability should be a priority in the redevelopment plans.

New York developer Carleton Brown said New Orleans needs to consider itself a competitor with other regional powerhouses vying for federal science grants, and activating assets like Big Charity is a key to doing so.

Earlier this year, the state spent more than \$6 million

to clean out the hospital.

The ULI panel will provide a full report by the end of the year. The panel suggested that the project should begin accepting proposals early in 2018 and begin the development process by the summer. ❖

Charity Tales

By Mark Brinker, MD and Bo Frederick, MD

Remember the long nights in the Accident Room and West Admit? Remember coming home after being up 48 hours, exhausted with your scrubs covered in blood...and worse? We all do, we trained at Charity!

In her day, Charity was a busy hospital and trauma center providing free care to tens-of-thousands of patients every year. She was also an unparalleled teaching hospital, training thousands of nurses and physicians.

There are books written about the history of Charity Hospital and a book describing her final days during Katrina. But there are no books from the nurse, medical student, and resident perspective. We all have stories from our days at Charity – some are funny, some are amazing, and some are just plain unbelievable. This is why we are contacting you. We plan to publish a book compiling Charity stories from those who trained and worked there. And we want to include your “Charity Tales.”

Just go to our website: **www.CharityTales.com** You will need to register your name and sign the copyright release. (We cannot use your story without your signing the release.) You can submit as many stories as you like, and please include as many details as you can remember. If you have any questions, you can contact us through our email.

Please take a little time and help us write this book. When we think back to our years at Charity, the best memories are the stories we tell our friends about our time there. We need to share these stories before they are lost!

Thanks for your help,

Mark Brinker, MD
Tulane Orthopedics 1988-1993
mark@mbrinker.com

Bo Frederick, MD
Tulane Orthopedics 1985-1990
bo@upperextremitycare.com

Note: We prefer that you use the web site to submit your stories, but you can send them directly to us via our email or by regular mail to the address below. If you do not go through the web site, we will need to mail you a written copyright release to sign if your story is selected to go in the book. So please include your name and mailing address with any story submitted via email or regular mail.

9301 North Central Expressway, Suite 350
Dallas, Texas 75231 ❖

2018 Election Candidate Biographies *The Election Ballot is on page 22.*

SECRETARY



Joycelyn Gondolfo Jeansonne '78 - Unopposed

Joycelyn has been active in the Alumni Association since the 1980s, serving on the Board, as President, and currently as Secretary, a position she has held since 2012. Joycelyn also serves on the Alumni Scholarship Committee, and she and her husband Kevin sponsor the Jeansonne Scholarship every semester. Joycelyn has a BSN from Northwestern, a MN from LSUMC, and a post-graduate NNP certification from LSUMC. She worked for the state for 14 years, and was Supervisor of PICU at Big Charity before moving to Alexandria where she taught Pediatric Nursing at LSU Alexandria. Joycelyn guest lectures at Louisiana College, volunteers at the Alexandria Museum of Art, and has been Secretary, President and Captain of the Krewe of Medea, an Alexandria Mardi Gras krewe. Joycelyn lives in Alexandria, LA.

BOARD MEMBER CANDIDATES - Vote for Two



Brooke A. Troxclair '17

As a student, Brooke was the President and Community Events Coordinator of the Charity Association of Student Nurses (CASN) and Treasurer of Sigma Alpha Chi. She is currently an ICU nurse at West Jefferson Medical Center. In her previous career, Brooke worked in accounting, office management, marketing and business development. She also has a creative side that includes cake decorating and music, and she designed several t-shirts that CASN has offered for sale at alumni events. "I am a PROUD graduate of Charity School of Nursing! At Charity, I fell in love with nursing, and I want to do anything I can to help Charity and its students." Brooke lives in Marrero, LA.



Patrick D. Reed '90

Patrick retired from Charity Hospital after 27 years as an ER nurse, Nursing Administrator and Quality Manager. He currently teaches RN-BSN and RN-Masters with Perdue University, University of Texas Arlington and Lamar University of Beaumont. He is President of the New Orleans District Nurses Association and President-Elect for the Louisiana State Nurses Association. He is on the Louisiana Action Coalition and co-chair of the Region 1 Action Coalition, and serves on the Advisory Board of the New Orleans Regional AIDS Planning Council. He has served on the CHSN Alumni Board as Nominations Chair. "I am proud of the service Charity nurses have and continue to provide for the people of Louisiana and around the world." Patrick lives in New Orleans.



Vivian Larkin Manes '70

Vivian is a board certified nurse case manager with twenty-plus years of experience, currently working for a private rehab company. She has been a board member of the Case Management Society of America and a member of the American Society of Pain Management Nursing. Vivian has been an active member of the Alumni Association for many years, serving on the Nominating Committee, Advisory Committee, and currently as a Board Member. "I remain committed to a strong and dynamic alumni, focusing on support and encouragement of Charity students." Vivian lives in Metairie, LA. ❖

2018 ELECTIONS BALLOT

DIRECTIONS: Circle the names of the candidates of your choice. Cut out the ballot, fold and mail. You can include in the same envelope with other items.

BOARD MEMBERS
(Vote for Two)

VIVIAN MANES '70

PATRICK REED '90

BROOKE TROXCLAIR '17

Check one:

☐ I am current on my membership dues.

☐ I am renewing my membership today.

Mail your ballot to: **CHSN Alumni Association**,
Delgado Charity School of Nursing
450 South Claiborne Ave, New Orleans, LA 70112

INSTRUCTIONS FOR VOTING

Candidate bios are on page 21. Circle your selections on the Ballot at left, cut it out along the dotted lines, and fold it in half to protect the privacy of your vote. Place it in an envelope and mail to the CHSN Alumni Association. You may include the membership form and luncheon reservation in the same mailing envelope. Your Ballot will be placed in a secure ballot box immediately upon receipt. Ballots must be received in the Alumni Office no later than January 31, 2018, to be counted.

CHECK YOUR MAILING LABEL

Only current members are eligible to vote. Check your mailing label for your membership status. The four-digit number adjacent to your name on your mailing label indicates the year your membership expires. If you see "2017" beside your name, it means your membership expires at the end of 2017. You can vote in this election, but may want to consider renewing your membership now for 2018.

If your label has a "0" or a year earlier than 2017, you are overdue to pay your membership, and you should send a check along with your ballot.

If the number on your label is 2018 or greater, or if it is 9999, 8888 or 7777 (special membership categories like Lifetime or Sustaining), then you do NOT need to renew your membership and you can go ahead and vote. ❖

CHSNAA MEMBERSHIP FORM

Check your mailing label for the year your membership expires. Use this form to renew, or to make a donation.

| | |
|---|---|
| <p>PLEASE WRITE CLEARLY!</p> <p>Class of: _____</p> <p>Name _____ <small>First name Maiden/graduating name Last name</small></p> <p>Address: _____ _____ Zip: _____</p> <p>Phone: _____ <small>Cell Home</small></p> <p>Email: _____</p> <p>I Want to Contribute to:</p> <p>Alumni Scholarship Fund.....\$ _____</p> <p>Class of 9/11/64 Scholarship Fund.....\$ _____</p> <p>Sister Laurentia Walsh Scholarship Fund.....\$ _____</p> <p>Sister Camilla Gaudin Scholarship Fund.....\$ _____</p> <p>CASN Convention Travel Fund.....\$ _____</p> <p>Student Emergency Assistance Fund.....\$ _____</p> <p>Art & Archives Preservation Fund.....\$ _____</p> <p>Other: _____ \$ _____</p> | <p>Annual Membership Dues:</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> \$15 Regular Membership</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> \$25 Blue Ribbon Member*</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> \$50 Silver Star Member*</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> \$100 Sr. Stanislaus Member*</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Sustaining Member: a one-time gift of \$500 (and never pay dues again).*</p> <p>*Members at these levels, please select your choice of:</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Personalized 2018-19 Alumni pocket calendar</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Alumni notepad</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Vintage postcard of the old Charity Dorm</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> No gift, please.</p> <p>Mail to: CHSN Alumni Association Delgado Charity School of Nursing 450 South Claiborne Ave, New Orleans, LA 70112.</p> <p>You can write one check for your membership dues, donations, and your Spring Luncheon ticket. You can mail your ballot in the same envelope as well. You can also do everything online at www.CharityAlumni.org</p> |
|---|---|



JOIN US FOR THE 2018

SPRING

ALUMNI

LUNCHEON

SATURDAY, MARCH 24

Hilton New Orleans Airport, 901 Airline Highway

FREE PARKING!

Registration/Cash Bar open at 10:30am; Lunch served at 11:30am

"2018 marks the city of New Orleans' 300th Anniversary and a time full of celebrations of our rich history, unique traditions and diverse culture. The Tricentennial will be a time to reflect on our past, embrace the wonderful, hospitable city that we have become, and look forward to our exciting future ahead." - 2018nola.com

The Charity Alumni will be part of the excitement!

Our Luncheon will be all about New Orleans! Join us for a few hours of friendship, fun, special memories, delicious food, souvenirs, raffles, door prizes, trivia - and so much more!

Special guests: The Daughters of Charity, celebrating their Bicentennial!

Savor your choice of two delicious entrees:

Bronzed Catch of the Day topped with a

Shrimp Regency Sauce

or Chicken Breast Poydras topped with

Brandied Mushroom & Artichoke Cream Sauce,

Plus salad, sides, coffee and

New Orleans Bread Pudding for dessert.

Cash Bar.

Use this form, and make checks payable to:

CHSN Alumni Association

or order your tickets at our website:

www.CharityAlumni.org

The \$40 ticket price covers only the cost of your meal.

If you value receiving our newsletters, or any of the other work of the Alumni Association, please consider paying membership dues or making donations to one of our many projects to benefit the School of Nursing

You can write one check for everything.

Use the form on page 22 or visit our website.

2018 Alumni Luncheon Reservation Form

Mail to:

CHSN Alumni Association, Delgado Charity School of Nursing,
450 S. Claiborne Ave, New Orleans, LA 70112

Or purchase tickets online at **www.CharityAlumni.org**

We must receive your payment by March 16, 2018,
to guarantee your seating!

PLEASE WRITE CLEARLY!

Name _____
First name Maiden/graduating name (if applicable) Last name

Class of: _____ Phone: _____ Cell Home

Address: _____

_____ Zip: _____

Email: _____

Total number of people _____ @ \$40 each.....\$_____

Choose your entree:

___ Chicken Breast Poydras or ___ Catch of the Day

Bringing a Guest? Please give us the name for their Name Tag:

**Charity Hospital School of Nursing
ALUMNI ASSOCIATION**

Delgado Charity School of Nursing
450 South Claiborne Avenue
New Orleans, Louisiana 70112

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

**What is that number
by my name?**

The four-digit number adjacent to your name on your mailing label indicates the year your membership expires. For example, “2017” next to your name means your membership expires at the end of 2017. You are current, but you may want to consider renewing your membership now for 2018.

If your label has a “0” or a year earlier than 2017 (such as “2015”), you are overdue! Please join or renew your membership now.

If the numbers on your label are 9999, 8888 or 7777, you are in a special membership category (Lifetime, Sustaining) and you do NOT need to renew your membership.

To renew your membership, use the form on page 22, or go online to:

www.CharityAlumni.org

Mark your calendar for the
Spring Alumni Luncheon
March 24, 2018



Cut out the box below and put on your bulletin board or refrigerator. You’ll always be able to find the information you need to keep in touch!



**Charity Hospital School of Nursing
Alumni Association**

Delgado Charity School of Nursing
450 South Claiborne Ave.
New Orleans, LA 70112
504-571-1395

Email: **chsnaaoffice@gmail.com**

Website: **www.CharityAlumni.org**

Facebook: **Charity Alumni NOLA**

Photo Share Site:
<https://charityalumni.shutterfly.com/>



A Publication of the Alumni Association of
Charity Hospital School of Nursing and Delgado Charity School of Nursing

Volume 50 Summer 2018



From the President

By Patrick Brady '83

If I told just anyone that a bucket list item for me was to be the president of my alumni association, I'm sure I'd get some strange looks! As Charity graduates, you all understand. What an honor it is to be the president of such a formidable association of nurses!

It was a really terrific Alumni Luncheon at the Hilton Airport in March! Thank you to Lista and Ursula and all of our hard-working Board members and volunteers for ensuring that we always have a wonderful time.

Health Care Hero

Our congratulations to Dr. Cheryl E. Myers, Dean of Nursing and Executive Dean of the Delgado Charity School of Nursing, who was named one of the New Orleans region's Health Care Heroes for 2018 in May.

The honor is sponsored annually by New Orleans CityBusiness newspaper. Fifty health care professionals in the New Orleans area are selected based on industry and community involvement and achievement that have set the pace for the overall community. We certainly applaud their selection, because Dr. Myers is *our* hero!

New Voices

We all love reading articles about alumni and their memories from early days at Charity. But in this issue, we are hearing much more from students. There have always been many different paths to and from Charity, but I am struck by how universal our experience is. The details vary, but the sense of discovery, the feeling of belonging to something bigger than oneself, the excitement of being part of Charity and her history - is something we all share.

I think you will enjoy reading about these members of the modern Charity community. The articles were written over the past year or so, and a couple of the authors are now newly graduated (and we are proud to welcome them



Top to bottom, left to right, Jasmarelda Smith '17 was the recipient of the Margaret Palmisano '49 Award at her graduation, and was thrilled to meet Margaret herself at the Alumni Luncheon this past March;



Dr. Cheryl Myers with Doris Burvant '60 at the Luncheon.

into our ranks). But their articles are from the student perspective. Please enjoy their stories throughout *The White Cap*, presented in their own words, and very much from their hearts.

Looking Ahead

Now that we have just installed a new set of Board members, I just want to remind you that we hold elections at the end of every year, so why not think about running for office yourself? If you think you might want to get involved, attend a few Board Meetings to see what it's like. Contact the Alumni Office to get the dates.

Homecoming 2020 will be here before you know it! Start contacting your classmates so you'll be ready!

In the meantime, I look forward to seeing you all at the **Alumni Breakfast** this fall on **September 22!** The details are on page 26, and it's going to be a great time! Food, friends, raffles, door prizes - and don't worry, I'll still be holding down the Souvenir Table! I will not attempt to compete with Bryan on sartorial splendor, but I may →

have some surprises for you yet!

In closing, I want to say how much I look forward to serving you as president. I also want to express my sincere gratitude to Bryan Camus for his leadership - and for being willing to extend his term until I could run for office. I'll try to do you proud! ❖

From the Executive Director

By Lista Hank '97

Well, another fat issue of *The White Cap*! I have to give thanks to **Joycelyn Jeansonne '78** for being my truly excellent proofreader, and to **Donna Bayard**, CSN Media Services, who provides photos of school events (like the Pinning Ceremony) for our newsletters and Facebook page. She is not only a terrific photographer, but a wonderful friend to the Alumni Association.

September Daze

I know you will get a laugh reading the recent Pinning Ceremony speech by **James Purcell '17** (page 8) where he recounts the bewildering experiences that will be familiar to Charity students across the generations!

We decided that would be a great theme for our September Breakfast: "School Daze." All those things that scared us silly and now make us laugh! Needles that looked as big as bazookas... the mystifying fluid dynamics of IV tubing...

Wear your nursing cap, a funny nurse t-shirt or some goofy scrubs – or come as you are, but please attend! We have some great raffles... a papier-mache Pelican Pin plaque by Mardi Gras float designer Joseph Barth, a beautiful framed cross-stitch of the Charity Pin by the wonderful and talented **Kathy Hug '65**, a gorgeous antique CHSN cape, and a Lost Legacy afghan!

So be sure to bring your checkbook, and order your Breakfast ticket today! Use the form on page 27, or go to our website at www.CharityAlumni.org. Hope to see you there! ❖

2018 Board of Directors

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EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR Lista Hank '97



Dean's Report

By Cheryl Myers, PhD, RN

Executive Dean CSN Campus/Dean of Nursing

Summertime! Most students and faculty are enjoying a much deserved break while others are engaged in the summer courses offered – Special Populations I and II and Pharmacology. The 2017-18 academic year was a busy, challenging, but successful year. During the year we continued our efforts to prepare graduates to be successful in the program, on NLCEX and in their careers. As of this writing, the Class of December 2017 has achieved a 96.49% pass rate on the licensure exam! We are very proud of the work the students and faculty have done to achieve this success.

In May, we signed a concurrent enrollment agreement with LSU Health New Orleans School of Nursing that will allow students in the second, third and fourth semesters of our program to also take classes toward their bachelor's degree at LSU. The program, known as the Early Admission Registered Nurse (EARN) program, will decrease the amount of time needed for graduates to obtain their BSN upon graduation from Charity.

One of our very own, **Ann Burghardt-Dieck '80**, was recognized with Delgado's Seymour Weiss Excellence in Teaching Award. This is the most prestigious award a faculty member at the college can receive, as the selection process involves both student and peer recommendations, along with professional and community contributions. We are very proud of Ann!

An update on the possibility of a new building for the nursing program: A letter of intent to transfer the LSU Medical School building at 1542 Tulane Avenue (next to Charity Hospital) has been signed by the LA Community and Technical College System and LSU Health Sciences Center of New Orleans. If all goes according to plans, this will become the future home of the college's nursing and allied health programs. Stay tuned!

Thanks to generous donations from the alumni, over **\$9,300 (!!!)** in scholarships and awards were distributed this spring to 23 deserving students. Additionally, 18 student members of CASN were able to travel to the NSNA National Convention in Nashville this spring with your help to offset some of their expenses. The opportunity to interact with nursing students from around the country and to participate in the House of Delegates was a priceless professional experience for them. Our fall and spring graduates also enjoyed the lunch provided by the Alumni Association on their Professional Issues Seminar day. Your support of the students is an integral component of their success and we appreciate the opportunities you are presenting for our students to achieve their dream of being a Charity graduate.

Wishing you a safe, relaxing summer! ❖

Spring Luncheon Celebrates the Crescent City and Daughters of Charity

March 24 was a day for fleur de lis and joie de vivre! Over a hundred alumni gathered in the elegant ballroom of the Hilton New Orleans Airport Hotel to recognize the Crescent City's Tricentennial and the Daughters of Charity Bicentennial at the Spring 2018 Charity Alumni Luncheon.

Outgoing President **Bryan Camus '12** welcomed alumni and guests, and reminded us all that it was indeed his last time as president (after two terms!) and, in keeping with our New Orleans theme, donned a purple, green and gold fleur de lis hat - with lights!

Our friend **John Batty**, author of *Voices of Angels: Disaster Lessons from Katrina Nurses*, made a short appearance, wanting us to know that, out of all the nurse groups he speaks to, Charity nurses have the most energy and enthusiasm!

The blessing was given by special guest **Sister Bonnie Hoffman**, Daughter of Charity. Bryan introduced **Rae Ann Deroche '84** whose *Lost Legacy* artwork was made into the afghan being raffled that day, as well as into notecards and posters for sale at the souvenir table.

Rose Jeanne Buccola '49 was recognized for her donation of \$10,000 to establish the **Sister Laurentia Walsh D.C. Charity Alumni Scholarship** in memory of her dear husband Vic. Her donation was matched by the Louisiana Board of Regents to create an endowment for scholarships which will benefit Charity students for generations to come.

Rose Jeanne then explained how she had located **Sister Mary Paule Vardigan** (who was at Charity in the 70s) and brought her to the luncheon today. She announced that Sister would celebrate her 100th birthday on April 1, and presented her with a gift. The alumni joyfully joined together to sing *Happy Birthday* to Sister Mary Paule.

School Report

Dr. Cheryl Myers, Executive Dean of the School of Nursing, reported on the news of the school, and she thanked us for our continuing support of the Charity students.

Special Guests

In celebration of their Bicentennial and their long history with Charity, special guests from the Daughters of Charity were invited to join us and tell us what the Daughters are up to these days!

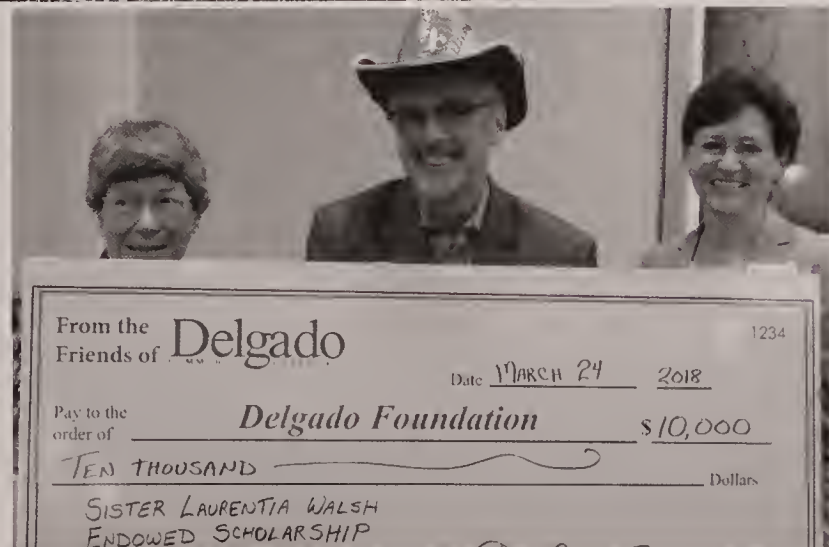
Sister Bonnie Hoffman, DC, Vice-President of Mission Integration for the Daughters of Charity, is a RN who worked at Charity Hospital from 1982 until 1998. The Daughters of Charity began their work at Charity Hospital in 1834, and carried on →



Top to bottom, left to right: Outgoing President Bryan Camus '12; Lillian Samardzija '60, Sandra Robert '56 and Mary Singletary '49 with Sister Mary Paule Vardigan, seated;



Elizabeth Teague, Sister Bonnie Hoffman and Veronica Jean '87; Ursula Allain '65 and Rae Ann Deroche '84; Rose Jeanne Buccola '49, Bryan and Dr. Cheryl Myers.





Top to bottom, left to right: Emily Ovalle '13 with retired faculty members Barbara Zeugner and Nora Steele; Anne Daigle and Ginger Andry, Class of 1958; Bethany Arnau '67, Donna Dauterive '83 and Lucy Whiddon '67; Marie Beaulieu '46 with daughter Kay Kinney '76; Elizabeth Ours '86, her daughter Alexandra Fahrenholtz '04 and her grand-daughter Valarie Milosovich '18; Barbie Hughes '88 and daughter Jacquelyn Bertucci '13; Cynthia Christoff with mom Marie Christoff '76 and Suzy Andry '59.

with Hotel Dieu, and in to the present day with the Foundation for Primary Care and Prevention. She referred to it as "a long and loving history" with the city and region.

Elizabeth Teague, the Vice-President of Development for Daughters of Charity Services of New Orleans, reported on the ten clinic locations and eight schools administered by Daughters of Charity that are currently serving the city.

Election Results

Emily Ovalle '13, Chair of Nominating Committee, reported that there was a tie in the votes cast for the two open board positions so, for this term, we would seat three new board members.

The newly elected members of the board came forward and Emily administered the oath of office to: President: **Patrick Brady '83**; Secretary: **Joycelyn Jeansonne '78**; Board Members: **Vivian Manes '70**, **Patrick Reed '90**, and **Brooke Troxclair '17**.

In his first act as President, Patrick recognized Bryan for his service and presented him with a gift of pelican bookends from the Board.

Roll Call of Classes

Patrick and Joycelyn conducted the roll call, first recognizing our amazing and beloved ladies of the 40s who can always be counted on to attend.

The **Class of 1968** is planning their 50-year reunion for the fall but they just couldn't wait to see each other and eleven classmates were in attendance!

Two members of the **Class of 1958** were on hand to receive their 60-year Platinum Certificates: **Cecile Ginger Andry** and **Anne Matthiesen Daigle**.

Alumni events are family affairs and this luncheon was no exception.

Patricia D'Aloise '50 brought her delightful husband Gus, her daughter, her grand-daughter and her grand-daughter's fiancé! **Marie Christoff '76** brought her daughter (who was born at Charity Hospital), **Rita Olivio '86** brought three family members, and **Jeanette Robinson '80** brought one daughter and her sister - just to name a few.

Mothers and daughter alums were also there in force: **Kay Kinney '76** is always at the alumni events with her mom **Marie Beaulieu '46**. **Jacquelyn Bertucci '13** was with her mom **Barbie Hughes '88**, and **Elizabeth**

Ours '86 was joined by her daughter **Alexandra Fahrenholtz '04** and grand-daughter **Valarie Milosovich, May '18!**

Raffles and Drawings

A signed, numbered print of a watercolor of Popp's Fountain by the late, local artist Robert Guthrie was donated for our raffle by **Charlene Berger '79**, and was won by student **Shelley Blanda**. The antique CHSN Cape, donated by **Penny Tolchin '63**, was won by thrilled student **Laura Gamber**. The raffle for the *Lost Legacy* afghan was won by **Ursula Allain '65** (who later presented the afghan to Rae Ann's mother). The 50/50 Drawing was won by **Donna Cooper '65** who received \$160.

Alumni were enthusiastic over door prizes that included glassware with vintage New Orleans scenes, Mardi Gras crown jewel boxes, bottles of Nawlin's worcestershire sauce created by Charity student **Kevin Ayestas** (formerly a *sous* chef at Commander's Palace), and copies of the book *The Big Free* donated by author **Dr. Martha Boone**.

Board Member **Patrick Reed '90** (who is also president of the New Orleans District Nurses Association) stepped forward to ask everyone to read about and support Louisiana Senate Bill 202, stating that the multistate licensing compact would make it easier for nurses to work in other states.

Cindy Beniger '68 led us in our rousing singing of the Alma Mater. Our new president thanked everyone for attending, wished us safe travels home and promised to see us in September! ❖

Top to bottom and left to right: Class of 1957, Rosalind Baldwin, Soledad Cheramie and Sydney Womack; Cindy Beniger '68 and Linda Monica '68; Class of 1965, Carolyn Gassiot, Donna Cooper, Paula Jackson and Diane Howell; Cathy Holland '68 and Judy Ross '68; standing, Myra Porche '69, Cynthia Wagley '72 and, seated, Jeanette Robinson '80 with her daughter; husband Gus with Patricia D'Aloise '50; Rita Olivio '86 with a family member; student Laura Gamber in 1963 cape; Marianne McCrory '68 and Linda Songy '68.



You can see more photos from the Spring Luncheon and other Alumni events at our photo-sharing site:
<http://charityalumni.shutterfly.com>

CASN and Convention

By Brittany Brignac '18

I write to you on behalf of the Charity Association of Student Nurses (CASN) with much appreciation for your continued support of the members of CASN and students of Delgado Community College Charity School of Nursing. I was the President of CASN for the Fall 2017 and Spring 2018 semesters. I was a recipient of the Joycelyn Jeansonne Scholarship and was one of the students who attended the National Student Nurses Association convention this spring. I am also a Charity School of Nursing graduate with the Class of May 2018!

When I was elected as President of CASN for the Fall 2017 semester, I was not sure how well I would do. I was nervous, shy, and anxious when speaking to large groups of people. Soon after taking on this position I found that, with the support of so many great nurses behind me, I would be very successful! It was you, the Charity Alumni Association, that helped guide me.

I am not sure if you realize the impact you have on us Charity School of Nursing students. Each time we are granted with your presence, you are warm, welcoming, and have the best advice to give or stories to tell. We are truly grateful for all the opportunities you give us during our journey through nursing school, including your very generous scholarships, grants, and donations. We, the students of Charity, strive to succeed so that we can one day join you in your support of the Charity School of Nursing student body.

National Convention

Eighteen CASN members attended the National Student Nurses Association (NSNA) 66th Annual Convention in Nashville, Tennessee, in April 2018. Your contributions toward our trip to the convention allowed us to focus more on maximizing our opportunities rather than worrying about the finances of attending.

At convention, students were able to attend focus sessions, participate in the House of Delegates, experience the Johnson & Johnson Global Nursing presentations, and network with many vendors in the Exhibit Hall.

"One of my favorite parts was being able to act in the role of a constituent to the House of Delegates where



Eighteen Charity students attended the National Student Nurses Association convention this April with financial assistance from the Alumni Association.

I was able to sit in on current issues being presented by fellow student nurses and participate in representing Charity in voting on resolutions," says **Angele Rains**.

"I loved the House of Delegates resolutions hearings," agrees **Shelley Blanda**. "There were some great resolutions this year! I felt very passionate about the resolutions on Nurse Licensure Compact, Safe Nurse to Patient Ratios, and Mental Health Screenings for Young Children. I was so excited that all three passed!"

Shelley also ran for the NSNA Nominating and Elections Committee South Division. We hope that she enjoyed this experience as much as we did watching her along the way. "Even though I was not elected, I am very proud of myself for going for it," says Shelley. "Speaking in front of hundreds of people was a huge step for me. I have gained confidence in myself, and experience in the process of running for a NSNA position. I hope to pass this knowledge along so that more students from Charity will want to run for a national position," says Shelley.

Focus on Leadership

The CASN students also attended focus sessions on a wide variety of topics. "I attended a session covering BCEN certification for emergency room nurses, and was able to hear firsthand accounts of the struggles and experiences of ED nurses," says **Misty Guchereau**.

"I was able to learn more about the different career specialties that are available within the nursing profession and also network with students all over the country," reports **Karen Bonilla**.

"Going to the NSNA Convention in Nashville was →

such an invaluable experience - which would not have been possible without the alumni's generosity and support," states **Mira Bull**. "Being surrounded by future nurses from around the country, we were part of a community that is 'hooked' on making the nursing profession the absolute best it can be. I had the opportunity to attend sessions where I learned about smarter ways of studying, career opportunities in Oncology, how to become a volunteer and save a life through Naloxone training, and became certified to provide health care services in disaster shelters through American Red Cross training. This opportunity opened my eyes to all that nurses are involved in and can become!"

Laura Gamber says, "Not only did the convention paint a glorious picture of this new chapter of my life as a nurse, but it also allowed me to bond with my fellow classmates."

"The highlight for me was attending the Plenary session," says **Monica Hevessy**, "It was sponsored by Johnson & Johnson and featured three nurses from different backgrounds, and discussed how nurses are cultural barrier breakers, innovators, and the driving force behind better outcomes for our patients and families. I left this session feeling empowered and encouraged to be the best nurse I can be."

We thank you for helping us attend the convention. It was truly a memorable experience filled with many opportunities for enhancing our future careers as registered nurses.

We are so thankful for your continued support as we work towards achieving our goal of becoming graduates of Charity School of Nursing - and Registered Nurses. It has been an honor to meet so many of you through our time at Charity. You truly inspire us to become the best Charity nurses possible. We truly appreciate you! ❖

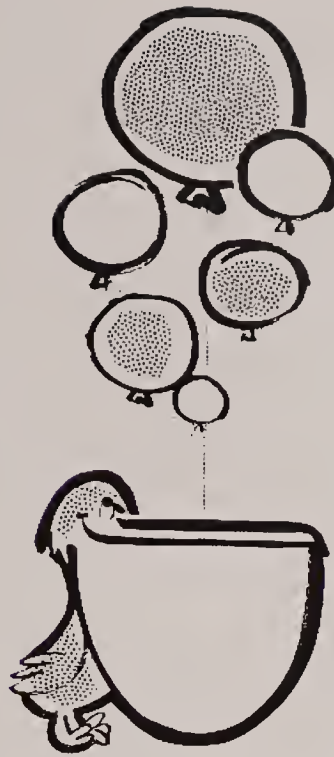
Charity Novel has Drama & Humor

The Big Free is a novel by **Dr. Martha Boone**, a urologist who obtained her surgical training at Charity Hospital in New Orleans. Set in an inner city emergency room in New Orleans in 1982, *The Big Free* is a coming of age story about a women surgeon. Dr. Boone combines humor with inside knowledge of the life in an urban hospital (and some recognizable Charity characters!)



"The emotions and powerful memories of the Big C came flooding back as I read the beautiful prose. Where do I go to nominate a book for a Pulitzer?!?!?" says **Warren Hebert '79**.

The Big Free is available in paperback in New Orleans at the Garden District Bookstore, and also on Amazon. ❖



Class Reunions

Plan a reunion for your class! The Alumni Office can provide a class list with any contact information we have, mailing labels and other assistance.

Take the first step! Contact the Alumni Office by calling 504-571-1395 or email us at chsnaaoffice@gmail.com.

Here are reunions that are in the works for September:

Class of 1983: Thirty-five Year Reunion

Contact: Donna Dauterive donna.dauterive@gmail.com

Class of 1977-78: Forty Year Reunion

Contact: Ellen Manieri ellenmanieri@gmail.com

Class of 1968: Fifty Year Reunion

Contact: Judy Lafleur Ross rossjl@cox.net

Class of 1949: Seventy Year Reunion

Contact: Rose Jeanne Buccola
104 Burguières Lane, Destrehan, LA 70047

"Where do the years go? 2019 will celebrate the 70th anniversary of our graduation. My how time flies!

Please let me know if you think you will be able to gather *once more* at the Alumni Breakfast in February 2019. If not, please send a bio for us all to read. We want to know about your nursing career, your hobbies, your health, your children, grands and great-grands! Send us a snapshot, too! We are still trying to locate Carmen Harbour Albach, Sarah Robbins Austin, Agnes Courtney Franz, Margaret Conway King, Delores Vasquez Malmquist, Annie Aigner Poole, Rosemary Borne Priest, Mary Neel Starbuck Sadler and Pauline Thompson Walsh. If you can help, let me know. Keep in touch! Luv ya all!!"

- Rose Jeanne Buccola '49

And for 2019:

Class of 1969: Fifty Year Reunion

Contact: Juanita Gauthier Deshotel
juanitagauthier@bellsouth.net

Class of 1959: Sixty Year Reunion

Contact: Suzy Hooks Andry susuhooks@yahoo.com

Pinning Ceremony of December 2017

On December 11, 2017, eighty-eight seniors received their graduation pins from Charity School of Nursing at the Pinning Ceremony at the Pontchartrain Center. Congratulations to all of these students who have joined our ranks as alumni and nurses in the past few months!

Special mention for the award recipients for the Class of December 2017 (*pictured top to bottom, left to right*):

Jonte Ray, Award of Distinction

James Purcell, Highest GPA

Margaret Tully, Sister Stanislaus Malone Award

Jasmarelda Smith, Margaret Palmisano Alumni Award

Melvina Thomas, Sister Blanche McDonnell Award



We Did It!

By James Purcell '17

James Purcell gave this speech at the Pinning Ceremony for the Class of December 2017.

I am truly honored to have the opportunity to share a few words here with you at this very special ceremony celebrating this group of RN graduates. It is a humbling, once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to speak at this ceremony, but I say - with utmost sincerity - that you could not pay me enough to repeat nursing school in order to have this opportunity to speak again!

Many Thanks

I would like to start by extending some myocardial-felt thanks - that's nurse talk for heart-felt.

First to the faculty and staff that work so hard to challenge us and ensure that we are prepared to be safe and successful RNs: Thank you, Dean Myers, Assistant Dean Skevington, the Level Coordinators, and all the administration for your leadership and courage in maintaining a steadfast dedication to upholding the high Charity standards even in the face of a frantic, indignant and pugnacious student body.

Thank you, faculty, for your angelic patience while we argued why the answer we picked was more correct than the answer that you deemed most correct.

And thank you for putting your licenses on the line during our clinical rotations so that we could learn to take care of real patients and not just the mannequin man in the



simulation lab that sounded suspiciously like a bassy →

Ms. Trosclair (“Hi, I’m Mr. Dardman”).

In all seriousness though, thank you, faculty and staff, for all you do. We quite literally would not be here without you, so thank you.

To the family, friends and significant others that supported us, thank you for bearing with us while we disappeared into the abyss of nursing school and became insufferable bookworms who talked without shame about bodily functions at the dinner table and at other inappropriate times. For your sacrifices and enduring support, I encourage my fellow graduates to stand now and applaud you.

Finally, I’d like to say thank you to my fellow classmates - for your camaraderie through the many challenging, hilarious, enlightening, exhausting and sometimes dispiriting experiences - thank you for venting with me, motivating me and inspiring me with your passion, perseverance and determination.

A Journey Together

I thought it would be nice to recount some of the journey we’ve taken to get here as a sort of reminiscence therapy for me and my fellow graduates and to appreciate just how far we’ve come.

So I’ll take you back to Level I where we learned how to wash our hands and make a bed, and we practiced IM injections on oranges and other unsuspecting citrus. We studied up on medical abbreviations like SOB, which had nothing to do with that jerk that cut you off in traffic but was instead an alarming indication of poor oxygenation.

We spent time in nursing homes bearing witness to the universal process of aging. And we began to discover the foundations of the nursing profession and what it meant to care for another human being in their time of illness and vulnerability.

In Level II, we learned about mental health and got stressed out taking exams on stress and coping. We learned what perseverate means, perseverate means, perseverate means... And we began delving into specific disease processes which meant we began self-diagnosing ourselves with every exemplar we studied. By the end of Level 2, I was convinced I had unstable angina, lupus and throat cancer. Turns out, it was just stress.

Coping Skills

We interacted with patients whose realities were very different from our own, who perceived the world in ways that we could not comprehend, but we were learning to empathize with them and care for their physical and psychosocial needs. In a way, by the end of Level II, a change in our own realities had begun: we were becoming nurses in our own right.

In Level III, we memorized important milestones in child development - like at what month babies begin drooling or babbling one-syllable utterances...which interestingly enough accurately describes the extent of

our functional capacity after taking tests in Level III.

We assessed lochia and massaged fundi and witnessed the beautiful miracle of birth...or we nearly passed out in the OR while observing a C-section.

By the end of Level III we had an enormous range of experiences with patients all across the human lifespan, and we were growing ever more confident with our clinical skills and knowledge.

Finally in Level IV, we learned to care for patients with medical emergencies like myocardial infarctions and likely experienced similar symptoms like tachycardia, tachypnea, diaphoresis and a sense of impending doom during our ICU rotations, professional issues group presentation and Code Simulation with “Mr. Dardman.”

We cowered beneath ominous conglomerations of IV drips and meticulously managed the care of patients with chest tubes, ventilators, central venous lines, arterial lines and all manner of modern bionic technologies.

We felt intimidated and overwhelmed all along the way as we were confronted with the intense realities of life and death in the Intensive Care Unit, but in the end we said, “I got this.”

And now, we’re at the end of this chapter in our journey. We did it. We survived. We overcame the extraordinary challenges of nursing school - perhaps with a few more gray hairs and poor coping habits. But we’re here. And if we can get through this program, we can get through anything.

Earning the Privilege

Nursing school is certainly the hardest thing I’ve ever done as I’m sure many of my fellow classmates would agree. I didn’t know it would be so difficult before I started. All I knew is I wanted to be a nurse. And that passion and determination is what drove all of us to push through the adversity, the suffering, and the setbacks to stand here now as graduates who will wear those letters, RN, and who earned the privilege of serving others in their time of greatest need. I congratulate you all on your tremendous achievement.

Before I finish up, I’d like to take a moment to honor a few people who contributed to my journey to nursing. First, is my good friend Tom, who planted the seed in my mind that, like him, I could go back to school after a business degree and become a nurse. Tom passed away unexpectedly just this past summer, and he is missed dearly but I hope to honor his spirit as I pick up the torch and begin caring for my patients as the RN he inspired me to become.

I’d also like to honor the memory of my grandmother, Ma B, who told me I would be a great nurse back in 2012 when I was staying with her and helping care for her towards the end of her terminal illness. I was just starting to seriously consider nursing as a possibility, and her encouragement meant more to me than I think she or →

I realized at the time. A huge thanks to my parents, of course, who have always supported and encouraged me to pursue lofty goals.

And last, but certainly not least, my significant other Lindsey. Thank you for your patience and understanding and for not judging me when I melted into our couch and binge-watched entire seasons of Game of Thrones the weekend following an exam. I'm sure you all have stories of people that have inspired and encouraged you to pursue this profession and who you will now honor as you step into your roles as RNs and begin caring for patients.

I hear all good speeches have quotes, so I'll leave you with this quote by Marian Wright Edelman: "Service is the rent we pay for being. It is the very purpose of life, and not something you do in your spare time."

I believe we've chosen a unique profession that affords us the opportunity to serve everyday. So go forth, and serve. ❖

May 2018 Pinning and Awards

One hundred and ten Charity students graduated on May 15, 2018, part of the 794 students who received degrees, diplomas and certificates from Delgado Community College at the Lakefront Arena that day.

The day before, on May 14, Charity students received their nursing pins at the traditional Pinning Ceremony at the Ponchartrain Center. We are so proud of all of you and welcome you as our nursing colleagues!

Graduation awards were announced for these seniors

The graduates of May 2018 sing the Alma Mater.



(pictured top to bottom, left to right): **Christy Heitmeier**, Sister Stanislaus Malone Award (between **Dr. Debbie Skevington '79**, left, and **Dr. Cheryl Myers**, right); **Brittany Brignac**, NODNA Leadership Award, with NODNA president Patrick Reed '90; **Joshua Bourgeois**, Sister Blanche McDonnell Award; **Michelle Scherer**, Highest GPA for the class.

The Theresa Bittenbring and John Henry Marque Fund Student Nurse Award recognizes the students with the highest GPAs in the academic year (usually five students, but there was a three-way tie this year.) The recipients of these awards were: **James Purcell** (highest GPA at Charity in the last five years), **Michelle Scherer**, **Molly Taylor**, **Leah Maloney**, **Margaret DesRoches**, **Hoai Tran** and **Holly Boe**. ❖



Scholarships & Awards

Spring 2018

We are pleased to announce the recipients of the Spring 2018 CHSNAA Scholarships and Awards. The awards were presented on February 5 at the Promotion and Awards Ceremony at the school. Congratulations to these students, and thank you to the many alumni, friends and family whose generosity made it possible for us to give a record \$9300 to twenty-three Charity students!

Scholarships - Level 2:

Heather Ney

Sister Blanche McDonnell Scholarship \$500

Stephanie Poche and William Pellegrin

Gloria Redmond Ashman Scholarships, \$500 each

Brandyn Filerman

Joan LeVasseur Scholarship \$500

Scholarships - Level 3:

Eric Stovall

Sister Laurentia Walsh Scholarship \$500

Misty Guchereau

Margaret Robichaux Elliott Scholarship \$500

Megan Guitreau

Sister Camilla Gaudin Scholarship \$500

Alana Bottoms

Leona Kruebbe Hilbert Scholarship \$500

Mira Bull

Hugh and Maria Garcia Roach Scholarship \$1000

Scholarships - Level 4:

Alicia McIntosh

Marcelle Jacobs Wright Scholarship \$500

Mollie Tatum

Mary Ann Signorelli Whynot Scholarship \$500

Brittany Brignac

Joycelyn Jeansonne Scholarship \$500

Bianca Robinson

Sally Cooper Alumni Association Scholarship \$1000

Pin Awards

\$100 toward the purchase of a graduation pin

The presentation of Pin Awards this semester was unusually emotional. Several of Charity's instructors lost parents this past year, and as each faculty member came forward at the ceremony to present their Pin Award to a student, they told us a little about their parents. As you can imagine, by the time the presentations were complete, there were few dry eyes in the room. These are the Pin Awards that were given, and the students who received them:

Heber B. Dodson Jr. Pin Award

Mr. Dodson served his country as a First Lieutenant in the Army Air Corps during World War II, and had a long career as a petroleum engineer. He was the father of Charity faculty member **Ms. Evelyn Dodson**.

*Presented to **Brandi Borden***

John O'Reilly Breeden Pin Award

Mr. Breeden was a mechanical engineer in the local maritime industry. He loved cruising in the Gulf Coast and fishing in Louisiana marshes. He was the father of Charity faculty member **Ms. Joan Breeden**.

*Presented to **Desmetris Jones***

William Leonard Roberson Pin Award

Mr. Roberson was a Veteran of the US Air Force and proudly served his country during the Korean War. He was the father of Charity faculty member

Ms. Monica Scheel '92.

*Presented to **Christy Heitmeier***

Carolyn Schwarz Myers Pin Award

Mrs. Myers was a generous and selfless volunteer. A devoted member of St. Dominic parish for over 40 years, she served as president of the Mother's Club and the School Board, Fair Chairman, a Liturgical and Eucharistic minister, and as a member of the Rosary Altar Society and the rectory staff. She also served on the board of the Friends Alliance of the Mentally Ill. Mrs. Myers received the Order of St. Louis medallion from Archbishop Phillip Hannan in 1986. She was the mother of Charity School of Nursing Dean **Dr. Cheryl Myers**.

*Presented to **Anesha Prier***

We also presented Pin Awards in memory of four alumni who have passed away:

Geraldine Owens Fields Pin Award

"Gerry" graduated from Charity in 1959. She was a nurse for many years at the American Legion Hospital, and taught nursing at Louisiana Technical Institute in Baton Rouge. When Gerry passed away this past October, two of her classmates, **Linda Dixon Abney** and **Willene Brown Jordan**, made generous donations in her memory.

*Presented to **Lauren Trosclair***

Joan Trapani Ibos Pin Award

Joan graduated from Charity in 1966. She worked at St. Tammany Parish Hospital for 45 years, and passed away in October. Her classmate, **Roberta Bartee**, an alumni and former faculty at Charity, made a generous donation to create this Pin Award in Joan's honor. "We shared many clinical rotations and I remember her as a good nurse and a fine friend," says Ms. Bartee.

*Presented to **Jan Rupert***

Kirk LeVasseur Pin Award

This Pin Award was been made possible by a generous donation from one of our alumni and Board Members, **Charlene Berger**, in honor of her classmate Kirk LeVasseur, a 1979 graduate of Charity. Known to his friends as “Doc,” Kirk was a compassionate and dedicated nurse, working in the challenging field of drug and alcohol rehabilitation. He was also well known as a youth sports coach. He always made sure that the kids came first and worked to be a positive influence on them.

Presented to Valarie Malasovich

MarKeshia Williams Pin Award

MarKeshia graduated from Charity in 2015, and was a shining star at Charity. She received an alumni scholarship herself as a student and many of us here still remember her with great fondness. But she was tragically killed in a car accident in 2016. Many of MarKeshia’s classmates and other alumni made generous contributions in her memory to create this Pin Award.

Presented to Datia Drake

Federation of Nurses Awards

Megan Liebert – RN Program \$500

Ebony Montgomery – PN Program \$500



Pin Awards Created by Faculty, Continued by Families

In the past few years, it has become a bit of a tradition that, when family members of instructors pass away, the CSN faculty makes a donation to the Alumni Association Pin Award Fund. The teachers who lost loved ones then match those donations in order to provide graduation pins to Charity students. We think it is a great testament to the faculty that, in times of great sadness, they are thinking about how they can benefit the students of Charity. We are touched and honored that these colleagues choose this way to show their sympathy, and that faculty join them to memorialize family members with a pin award. Several instructors have gone on to give additional donations to continue the Pin Awards themselves, so pins in memory of their loved ones can be given for multiple years. We want to thank the entire faculty for this amazing support, and recognize these instructors for their commitment to continue the memorial Pin Awards for additional years:

Joan Breeden in memory of her father John O’Reilly Breeden (*Joan asked the faculty to make her retirement gift an extension of her father’s Pin Award*);

Michelle De Lima ‘87 in memory of her father Arthur Joseph De Lima, Jr.;

Evelyn Dodson in memory of her father Heber B. Dodson. ❖

Carolyn Schwarz Myers Pin Award Extended to 2021

The family of **Carolyn Schwarz Myers** has made a very generous donation to extend the Pin Award in her memory through 2021. “My family was very touched by the awarding of the pin this spring, and with the recipient’s story and plans for her nursing career,” wrote Dr. Cheryl Myers. “We wanted to continue the award in our mother’s honor. Our parents instilled the value of education in all of us, as evidenced by all nine of us being college graduates, several with more than one degree. Our mother was a very generous person, and we know she would enjoy being able to assist nursing students to meet their goals.” The family has asked that, when possible, the award would go a student interested in the care of patients with dementia. ❖

Dedicated to My Father

By Monica Scheel ‘92

In 1989, I walked through the front doors of this institution – for my first day as a nursing student at Charity Hospital School of Nursing. At that time, it would be the last group of Diploma nurses to be enrolled in the program.

Over the next three years, I too faced the many struggles and challenges of being a nursing student in this strenuous program. And on one spring evening in 1992 – as I graduated at St. Joseph’s church across the street on Tulane Avenue – I finally fulfilled my dream of becoming a nurse. Not just ANY nurse – but a Charity nurse. There was no one prouder of me on that night than my father, William Roberson.

My father was always so proud of my being a nurse, and for all of my accomplishments during my 26 year career. He was especially happy when I chose to come back and teach at the same institution that started me on my nursing journey.

Late last year, my father suffered head injuries which resulted in subsequent hospitalization and neurosurgeries. He had the privilege of being taken care of in the ICU by several recent Charity-Delgado AD nurses – also recent students that I had taught. These nurses demonstrated not only the highest caliber of nursing skill – they also treated my father (and my family) with the utmost degree of compassion, respect, integrity and dignity. These are the values that Charity nurses have been known for, for the past 124 years. When my father died early on Thanksgiving morning, these nurses reached out to me to let me know how honored they were to have taken care of “Sweet William” – as he liked to be called – and to check on me and my family. I told them that it was indeed OUR honor to have had them taking care of HIM – and that the

care and level of humanism they displayed would never be forgotten by us. People will forget what you did and will forget what you said - but they will never forget how you made them feel. This is the “art and science” of professional nursing.

As a legacy to my father, my family, my CSN faculty colleagues and I decided to present a Charity nursing school pin in his memory to a deserving nursing graduate. The pin was awarded to senior **Christy Heitmeier** in February. It is our hope that when Christy wears this pin in honor of William Roberson, she will remember all that it represents and continue with the proud traditions of what it truly means to be a “Charity Nurse.”❖

Alumni Notes

Joanne Philbrook Newton ‘56 (*Orangevale, CA*): “I enjoy the *Alumni News* so much - keeps informed of the happenings at Charity plus the news of my classmates. My three years at Charity were such a wonderful experience - helped me to grow and gave me a life-long career of helping people, as well as financial security. Retirement has been a time to enjoy family, friends and, so far, good health.”

Patricia Bourgeois LeBlanc ‘58 (*Morganza, LA*): “Enclosed is my 1958 yearbook. I am very happy to donate it to the archives. My twin sister and classmate **Sheila Bourgeois Osiecki**, passed away in July 2007 after a long illness. We remained very close. I also have a younger sister who graduated from Charity, **Phyllis Bourgeois Beeching ‘63**. She lives in Arkansas. Phyllis once was a Navy nurse; Sheila and I were Air Force nurses. Thanks to Charity for all the wonderful memories and for making me the person I am now. I am 80-years-old and still live in Morganza - for the last 47 years.”

Rosemary Hathorn Holmes ‘62 (*Zephyr, TX*): “I continue to enjoy my White Cap and thank God every day for allowing me to get my diploma there. I always had good jobs and enjoyed my work in private duty, Air Force and Air Force Reserves! I worked until I was 70 and now I continue to do volunteer work in ICU in Brownwood, Texas, at Texas A&M Ed. Club and at Good Samaritan. Here at work, I met someone who was born at Big Charity in 1958 - and was also a nurse whose mom did volunteer work there! God Bless all of you and hope 2018 will be a great year for everyone!”

Penny Kistler Tolchin ‘63 (*LaMesa, CA*): “I hope this cape full of memories (and a few hidden holes) will be enjoyed and treasured by another Charity alumni. It saw good times and some struggles during the ‘action’ years of 1960-63. And subsequently some 50-odd ‘battle’ years in

an old cedar chest (the moths won a skirmish or two). Best wishes to you and all who look upon this symbol of historic times at Big Charity.”

Chris Hurley Carbon ‘71 (*Lunenburg, MA*): “I thoroughly enjoy the *White Cap* publication.”

Jo Ann Rizzuto ‘71 (*North Lauderdale, FL*): “Thank you for the lovely letter about scholarship recipient **Bianca Robinson**. As a Charity graduate, I had an excellent education. It has carried me a long way. Bianca has the right attitude - treat every patient like family. I wish her the best and definitely encourage her to go for her PhD in Nursing.”

Rebecca Carter Fisher ‘76 (*Cleveland, MS*): “We have lived here in north Mississippi for 30 years. I have been married since 1981, have two children and five grandchildren. I am retired now. After working three years as a RN, I attended the Charity Hospital School of Anesthesia and worked as a CRNA for 30 years. It was the perfect career for me and I enjoyed it very much. Now I divide my time between grandchildren and traveling. I am still proud that I attended CHSN. It prepared me so well for my career, and also for life.”

Zenida “Ziggy” Silva ‘85 (*LaPlace, LA*): “AKA ‘Zee’ in the medical world! I love seeing familiar faces on the web site. Great memories of being yearbook editor at school. I stayed in the nursing profession for 29 years. I worked pediatrics to hospice, telephone triage to case management and even travel nursing! My flexibility and easy to adapt attitude is a credit from my great educators from Charity School of Nursing. I hope to make it to my next reunion. Still proud of being a graduate!”

Tina Miceli ‘87 (*Harahan, LA*) is the mayor of Harahan, LA. Taking office in January 2015, Tina was the first woman to be elected as mayor of the town. Tina was an



Oncology Nurse in the Radiation Oncology Departments at Ochsner Hospital and Touro Infirmary. She received an Excellence in Nursing Practice Award from Ochsner Hospital, and a Spirit of Caring Award from the American Cancer Society. Tina worked closely with cancer patients and their families helping them through their journey for over

26 years. She also acted as the official liaison between non-nursing personnel and the professional staff, and developed programs to improve the quality of life for cancer patients. She has written a variety of educational materials and published a children’s book on dealing →

with cancer. Tina has given presentations on multiple oncology subjects, participated in the development of national research studies, and continues to educate Delgado Radiation Therapy students.

Lorain Schexnaydre Landry '93 (*Convent, LA*) was named St. James Parish Hospital 2017 Employee of the Third Quarter. Lorain has worked at St. James for over ten years and is in the Emergency Department.

Lori Driggs '97 (*Gilbert, AZ*): "Such good memories, and I will never forget our graduation at St. Joseph's Church. It was so inspirational! After being an OR nurse, I found my niche in OB/GYN. I went back to school in Texas and graduated from University of Texas and then UT Southwestern as a Women's Health Nurse Practitioner, and then got a master's degree through a reciprocal program with Drexel University in Philadelphia. I do love seeing the women who come to our practice - it started with three docs and me leaving another practice and starting a new one. Now we have five locations, and I don't even know how many NPs and docs. Our kids are all grown and married and we have 32 grands. I'm still working full-time here in Gilbert, AZ. We are from here, so we are home now. But my best memories are from Charity School of Nursing. Blood, sweat and tears... a lot of work, but so rewarding." ❖

Alumni Receives Excellence in Teaching Award

Ann Burghardt-Dieck '80 (*Metairie, LA*) was awarded this year's Seymour Weiss Excellence in Teaching Award by Delgado Community College at the May 2018 Commencement. The endowed professorship is the college's most prestigious award bestowed on a member of the faculty and is presented annually.

Ann is a proud graduate of the School of Nursing and a strong ambassador for Delgado in the community. As a member of our alumni Advisory Committee, she provides advice and input to our Board of Directors at board meetings throughout the year. As a faculty member, she has brought important insights into how the Alumni Association can support students and faculty at the School of Nursing. Ann has written lengthy articles for our two publications, *The White Cap* and the *Alumni News* over several years, highlighting achievements of graduates.

Ann is a stalwart advocate for students - they know that she will demand their very best, but also that she will always "have their back."

Ann has been on the faculty at Charity School of Nursing since 2012 and is only the second CSN faculty member to receive this honor. **Barbara Hebert** received the 2013 Seymour Weiss Teaching Award ❖



Ann Burghardt-Dieck '80 received the teaching award at the Delgado College May Commencement Ceremony.

2018 CHSNAA Advisory Committee

Cecile Ginger Andry '58
 Suzy Andry '59
 Roberta Bartee '66
 Alice Brady '64
 Wedon Brown '10
 Rose Jeanne Buccola '49
 Ann Burghardt-Dieck '80
 Doris Burvant '60
 Beverly Cazayoux '61
 Karen Chabert '77
 Tori Harris Chatman '07
 Rick Crouse
 Ross Cunningham '84
 Patricia Dufrene '85
 Jenn Garnand '11
 Marilyn Hammett '78
 Joan Hodge '75
 Ellen Manieri '77
 Rebecca McCalla '78
 Margaret Palmisano '49
 Beth Pesses '76
 Sharon Robinson
 Judy Lafleur Ross '68
 Susan Schaff
 Lisa Stokes-Hasten '78
 Sara Trahan '16
 Mary Trosclair '73
 Susan Wentz '11
 Barbara Zeugner ❖

A Path Worth Taking: Student Journeys to Charity

Bianca Robinson, May 2018

My motivation to become a nurse was both a logical and a personal one. Nursing marries the arts of scientific thought, problem solving, critical thinking, commitment and compassion. These are the qualities exemplified by



professional nurses. Among health care careers, the nursing profession allows for a unique level of personal interaction in patient care. For me, nursing is the glass slipper that fits.

William Stevenson is the personal reason I chose a career in nursing. This man took on the role of both my grandfather and father figure when

my dad died when I was three-years-old. My grandfather made huge sacrifices so that I might one day have a bright future. He worked multiple jobs to help my mom pay my private high school tuition. He comforted me when I was sick. He was there for me when I needed advice or someone to talk to. It was through him that I first learned compassion and empathy.

My world crumbled when my grandfather was diagnosed with kidney failure in 2007. I made it my mission and sole focus to take care of him until ultimately he took his last breath in hospice. It was while taking care of my grandfather that I decided I wanted to become a nurse.

I entered a practical nursing program, and learned to treat patients with the same compassion, respect and dignity that I treated my grandfather, because they are someone's grandparent, parent, uncle, sibling or cousin. Although initially I struggled academically, throughout my grandfather's illness he told me to never give up! I made a promise to him on his deathbed that I would do everything in my power to achieve my goal. I cried when I graduated valedictorian in 2014. Even though the road was long and hard, I was finally able to fulfill the promise I made to my grandfather.

I worked as an Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS) Nurse on the Team Gleason Unit for three years. But I wanted to expand on the commitment I made to my grandfather by completing the Charity's LPN to RN Bridge program. Before entering Charity, I thoroughly studied the mission, vision, history and core values of this nursing program. In order to become the most productive, confident and competent nurse that I can be, I know Charity is the right place for me. The philosophies that this program represents are reflections of my own.

I was honored to be inducted into Charity's honor society, Sigma Alpha Chi, and to be able to tutor fellow

nursing students. I received a Clinical Excellence Award due to my exemplary rapport and patient care. I received the Sally Cooper Scholarship from the CHSN Alumni Association. This program allows my values of excellence, respect and service to flourish. Charity School of Nursing allows me to serve my hometown. Having a chance to give back to my community that has greatly impacted my life is rewarding beyond words to explain.

At this moment I have laid down the foundation for my future. Now I am hoping to move forward full steam with my plans, to take hold of my dream of one day becoming a Family Nurse Practitioner and make it a reality. I am a natural-born caregiver, community activist, humanitarian, daughter and friend. All things to everyone.... just like a nurse.

Heather Ney, Level 2

"Where are you from?" was once the most difficult question a person could ask me. When you live on a military base, that question is rarely asked, probably because no one has a clue what to say. In Louisiana, it's almost as common as "What's your name?"

I'm an Army Brat. I moved nineteen times before my twenty-first birthday. I spent eight years in Germany,



including all four years of high school. When I moved back to the United States to begin college, on my own at 17, I wasn't prepared to answer that question. At first I responded with, "I grew up in Germany. My dad is in the Army." That only confused people: "You're German? But you don't sound German. Say something in German." So I started

telling them where my extended family – grandparents, aunts, uncles, and cousins - live. That didn't work either: "Wait are you from Baton Rouge or Shreveport? Where are YOU from?"

Having such a tough time providing an answer that was both truthful and easy for others to understand made me realize I wasn't from anywhere. From that point, I always said, "I don't know, I'm an Army brat." I spent the next ten years searching for a home – an answer to the simple question, "Where are you from?"

Once I planted roots in New Orleans and this amazing city became my home, the hardest question for me to answer changed. I have a bachelor's degree in journalism with a minor in English. Writing is the only thing I wanted to do. During my last job in that field, I worked for a small ad agency. I spent six years proofreading Popeye's coupons. I could only correct the spelling of the word "chicken" so many times before I started questioning my life choices. It was time for a career change. I asked myself, "What do I want to do?" I wanted to help people.

I wanted to make a positive impact on someone's life. I wanted to go to sleep each night feeling like I'd made →

some kind of improvement, no matter how small, in the world. And ideally, it wouldn't have a thing to do with fried chicken.

I kept landing on nursing, but it seemed so impossible. Can I really start over with a new career at the age of 31? How are we going to pay our bills if I can't work full-time? Am I any good at science? Can I handle blood, urine, feces and vomit? What if I'm not good at it? What if I spend the time and money pursuing this and fail?

Despite all of the unknowns and fears, "What do I want to do?" kept leading me back to nursing. The time would pass anyway, and I could spend the coming years unhappy and trapped in a job I had no passion for. Or I could make the most of that time by working toward something that made me excited about my future. I stopped thinking about it and started doing it – one small step at a time.

Now that I have found what I am meant to do in this life, the hardest question for me to answer has changed yet again: "How is nursing school going?" Truth be told, I have no idea how it's going 95% of the time. There isn't any time or brain power left after class, clinicals, studying and work to think about how anything is going. There aren't words to describe the experience: good, hard, scary, rewarding, interesting... all true, but they fall seriously short of painting an accurate picture.

Nursing school has been the most challenging thing I have ever done. The way I think, what I think about, my priorities, my idea of what's important in life – they are all different now. Nursing school is terrifying and beautiful. It makes me feel like I know a lot, and like I know nothing at all. How is it possible to be the happiest I've ever been AND the most stressed-out I've ever been at the same time?

Nursing school is a paradoxical experience that no one expects or can imagine, no matter how prepared you think you are. Finally finding a career I am passionate about, and being able to make the positive impact on others I've always craved, is like finding home all over again. But because you can only really understand all of that if you've done it, I'll stick with my standard response - true and easy for others to understand - "It's good! Really hard, of course, and I'm exhausted, but I love it."

James Purcell, December 2017

After graduating college in 2007 with degrees in International Business and Spanish, I knew I wanted to do work I could believe in, helping others and pursuing a life that put my values of service and compassion above material wealth. Being young and adventurous, I set out to change the world. I organized and embarked on a humanitarian service project in Latin America. My ambition and idealism were externally focused, but the change that I managed to create in the world was primarily internal. The two years I spent traveling and working with non-profit organizations and humanitarian projects

fostered a deeper understanding of myself, immeasurably expanded my perspective of the world and how I might contribute to it, and reinforced my passion for serving others. This journey eventually led me to discover my calling: nursing.

While taking prerequisite courses for nursing school, I volunteered on the Med-Surg unit at Ochsner Baptist in New Orleans to gain experience in the hospital setting. I had the opportunity to use my video production and editing skills to create a video celebrating the specialty of Med-Surg nursing in general and the accomplishments of our unit at Ochsner. The hospital used the video as a recruiting tool.

I earned my certification as a CNA and was hired as a Patient Care Technician in the same unit. The hospital hired me to create a teaching video to introduce and demonstrate bedside handoff as they rolled out their intervention to all their hospitals. I have learned in nursing school that education is an essential role in nursing, and being able to use my video skills to bring that teaching to life for an entire hospital system was incredibly exciting for me. The video projects also allowed me to move through different capacities within health care, from working alongside nurses to meeting with the Chief Nursing Officer. I hope to continue to fuse my nursing education and video production skills.

International humanitarian service continues to be an important focus for me. While at Charity, I spent two summers leading humanitarian service trips for teenagers in Peru, Ecuador and Costa Rica. I particularly enjoy the educational role I fill on these trips, teaching students about local culture and facilitating discussions.

My nursing plans are to work in emergency or critical care, with the long-term goal of being a flight nurse, Nurse Anesthetist, or Nurse Practitioner. I want to work or volunteer in underserved communities, particularly Spanish-speaking populations. I want to integrate my passion for international humanitarian service and intercultural exchange with my nursing knowledge by participating in medical service projects abroad. I was honored, humbled and grateful to receive the Hugh and Maria Garcia Roach Scholarship from the Alumni Association in the Spring of 2017, especially considering Ms. Garcia Roach's history as a flight nurse and Nurse Anesthetist.

Misty Guchereau, Level 3

I am a second-career student who found myself drawn to nursing in the most profound way. Ten years ago, I graduated from high school, third in my class, but with no idea what to do with my life. I went to college because it was expected of me, and failed out quickly. Over the next few years, I gained some life experience, and after some bad decisions and misdirection, I found myself enrolled in school for Cosmetology. I knew when I

started, I had to finish, to prove to myself I was capable of finishing something I started. And I did. I passed my state board licensure exams on my first try, and started out apprenticing at a high-end salon. I still had much to learn.

Beauty school only teaches you a foundation of basics that you must build on each year that you work in the industry. It is ever evolving, therefore cosmetologists must



be ever learning and changing with it. Everyone said, "The day you think you know everything is the day you need to quit." How could I have known that much of this would be true in my next career choice as well?

During my career I learned not only how to fine tune my abilities as a hairstylist, but also how to speak to people. How to ask the right questions to find out what they really wanted (even if they were using incorrect terminology). How to actively listen to someone as they are spilling their deepest, darkest secrets and worries. How to know when to speak and when to be silent. I learned empathy. I have seen how something as simple as a new hairstyle could completely transform a woman with no self-esteem, an abusive spouse, alopecia - and so many other issues - into someone powerful, confident, and ready to take on the world. I have cried with the people in my chair. Seeing how big of an impact I could make, with something so simple as a hairstyle or a listening ear, touched me in a way I could never put into words. I knew I was meant to do more, to help people more.

Nursing. I was meant to be a nurse. After five years of establishing myself as a cosmetologist, I was determined to go back to school. Failure was not an option. I came back strong my first semester with straight As. I remember telling people who asked what nursing school I was planning to attend - I always answered, "Charity. I want to be the best, and Charity is the best." Full-time working, full-time prerequisite classes, two years later I applied and was accepted. I knew Charity would be my home.

I am Media Coordinator for CASN, a member of Spectrum, and I try to volunteer for as many opportunities as I can, like training as a volunteer to sit with hospice patients, so their caretakers and family can get a break. I am someone who has come from absolutely no medical background, to diving headfirst into anything nursing related. I am really proud of myself for my hard work and dedication, but also for finding my passion, knowing it is a path worth taking, and being brave enough to go for it.

Stephanie Poche, Level 2

My path to Charity began in 2005, right after my son was born and my husband was sent to Iraq on his first deployment. I chose to stay home with my kids and support my husband as a Family Readiness Group Leader.

As a FRG Leader, I was a counselor of sorts, mentoring and supporting families as they navigated deployment life. I had no idea how impactful the next six years would be on me as a military spouse and a mother of three. Do you know how it feels when you are doing a task and are enveloped in the moment so much you feel as comfortable as your favorite sweat pants - or that you have "found your people"? I found my people. They were the people I helped change tires, or worked with to pay their bills, or even listened while they grieved over their son who committed suicide. In those moments I knew I needed to help people grow and develop, heal and laugh all in the same breath. We repeated the deployment cycle three times over, and so did the need to support others.

Life has a weird way of inching you into situations that groom you for the future. In the summer of 2015, my best friend of 17 years called me to say her mother was diagnosed with mesothelioma. Spike lived only a full six months after that. I watched the hospice nurse feel for her pulse, listen to her heart, and give words of comfort to her family. I distinctly remember the nurse verbally preparing Jessica and her family for the moment Spike would take her last breath.

I remember thinking to myself, is it wrong that I am so interested in these details, in how the body just stops



doing something its done so unconsciously all these years? And what can I do to help my friend who is in such agonizing grief? I am met with another situation where I am on the other side, I am grieving with my friend, but also a student of bereavement care inadvertently.

One short year later, my mom was diagnosed with cancer. I accompanied her to the oncologist visit that confirmed she had large B cell lymphoma in her liver. I watched my parents faces, they were stunned with disbelief. Their silence was so loud. I sat across from the doctor, made eye contact, nodded and asked questions, trying to communicate through the lump in my throat and holding back my tears.

This was not our first experience with lymphoma - my grandmother died at the young age of 63 of the same thing. We all knew what was in front of us. But we were ready to fight. It was the following summer that I made the decision to enroll at Delgado to complete the prerequisites for Charity.

My mom is in remission today. Her journey helped pave the way as my inspiration and my desire to "pay it forward." I would never have guessed I'd be in nursing school at the age of 39. The sum of all my experiences have afforded me the motivation to be where I am today, and I look forward to my next semesters at Charity and a lifetime of nursing. ❖

Goodbyes

"My precious mom, **Ann McMin Fabre '38** passed away on July 28, 2017 just 2 weeks after we celebrated her 100th birthday; still living independently in her own home. She became a RN, turned 21 and married my daddy on the same day, July 14, 1938. She was so proud of being a Charity Hospital graduate and managed to work it in to a conversation every single day until her passing. She always said she wanted to come back as a Charity Hospital ER nurse to teach 'those residents a thing or two.' She had so many wonderful stories about her



time there and spoke of them so often. The story *Marion Goes to Nursing School in The White Cap*, Summer 2017, brought back so many wonderful memories. Mom worked in every department in the hospital at some point but her passion always brought her back to the Emergency Department. When I decided to become a nurse there was no question for me where I was going, and of course I had an amazing time. I worked in the ED/Trauma at Charity during nursing school and after I graduated and have stayed in the ED my entire career. My youngest is in medical school also planning on an Emergency Residency. Mom was such a great inspiration for us."

- Susan Fabre '78



Carmen Alonso Bermudez '49 passed away peacefully on December 20, 2017 at the age of 90. She worked as a psychiatric nursing director at Tampa General Hospital and Florida Mental Health Institute. Carmen was highly regarded as a compassionate nurse and a mentor.

Celina Machin Haynie '51 worked for many years at the Lafayette General Medical Center, and was active in nursing organizations at the district, state and national levels. She was instrumental in establishing the LSNA Bayou District and could often be found in Baton Rouge advocating for patients and nurses. At the the age of 76 she attended the Senate Health and Welfare Committee hearings to oppose the medication attendant bill. She was a delegate to the American Nurses Association's House of Delegates from 1962 to 1984 and participated in the NCAP Political Skills Workshop and the National Women's Education on Campaigning in Washington DC. In 1986, Celina became the first RN in Lafayette to be certified as a Nurse Administrator by the American Nurses Credentialing Center. At Lafayette General, she used those



administrative skills in roles that included head nurse, director of nursing quality assurance, director of quality assurance, director of housekeeping and linen services, and director of plant facilities, maintenance, clinical engineering, construction, housekeeping and linen. Celina has also been active

in her community, volunteering for the Boy Scouts (she was named Den Mother of the Year in 1964 and awarded the highest honor conferred by the BSA), for the American Red Cross, and (for more than 15 years) at the Lafayette Community Health Care Clinic where she managed services for residents with no health care coverage. Celina was honored as the Lafayette Community Health Care Clinic Volunteer of the Year, and the "Acadiana Celebrates Nursing" Honoree, and received the LSNA District 4 Lifetime Achievement Award. In 2007, she was inducted into the Louisiana State Nurses Association Hall of Fame. Celina was a proud Charity alumni and a Sustaining Member of the Alumni Association. She had not been able to attend alumni meetings in the past few years since her friend and driving partner **Judith Crappel Perez '82** died. Celina passed away in February 2018 at the age of 87.

Marjorie Chapman Montaney '54 died on May 27, 2017. She was born in 1933 in the town of Kinder, LA, the second of eight children. They lived near the Cow Bayou in Indian Village. Marj worked at Charity Hospital for over a year, then was offered a position at Group Health Hospital in Seattle, WA. The very day Marj arrived in Seattle, she met the man she would spend the next 55 years with, Thomas Gray, just out of the Air Force and working for the Boeing Company. The two were married in 1957, making their home in Maple Valley, WA, for the next 45 years and raising three daughters. Marj enjoyed a busy life working as a registered nurse for 40 years and, after retiring, traveled and hiked with family and friends for several years. In 2003, Tom and Marj moved to Chewelah, WA where they bought a log cabin on 20 acres. Marjorie was diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease in 2006. With her life changing day by day and Alzheimer's stealing her memories, Marj never gave up hope or her love of the Lord. She was cared for by her husband until he died in 2012. After that, she was taken care of by her three daughters, and passed away after "a truly long, long goodbye."

Emily Nell Sansbury Mulkey Kircher '67 worked at Charity Hospital for two years following graduation, then moved to Arizona and later to the US Virgin Islands, where she worked at the local hospital, lived on a boat in

St. Thomas harbor and had two children. Later, she assisted in the design of an intensive care unit in Jacksonville Beach. She returned to her hometown of Gainesville, and worked in the Emergency Department of UOFL Teaching Hospital/Shands (UF Health Shands Hospital). After retiring, Emily worked for UOF Oral Surgery Center. Emily and her current husband moved to Toccoa to be near her grandsons, who renamed her "Mimmie", and she went camping, kayaking and exploring in Florida, Georgia, North and South Carolina while working with Amedisys Home Health in Toccoa. Emily and her husband also traveled Georgia and North Carolina doing camp hosting at various parks.



Lee Vern Higgins Dove '83 was born and raised in Little Rock, Arkansas, one of ten children. In 1957, she was one of the classmates of the "Arkansas 9" of Dunbar Junior High School who successfully integrated the all white Central High School in Little Rock, the basis of the movie *Crisis at Central High*. Her leadership and strength was evident early in life as she

dropped out of school to help her mother take care of the house and all of the rest of her siblings. She met the love of her life and married husband Joseph in 1961, and they moved to New Orleans. Lee would dream about having a better life and opportunities to grow and better herself. Despite having three children by the age of 23, Lee started to invest in her future and her family's well being by enrolling at L.E. Rabouin and completing her GED. She went on to become a Licensed Practical Nurse and worked at Mercy Hospital for thirteen years. Then Lee decided that she wanted more. At the age of 40, while working full time and raising a family, she applied and was accepted into the nursing program at Charity School of Nursing and became a Registered Nurse. She later went on to complete her BSN at the University of Phoenix. Lee loved nursing. Instead of retiring to sit back, relax, and enjoy the fruits of her long career, Lee preferred much more to continue working into her 70s because nursing brought her much joy. She never, ever quit nursing. She simply reached the finish line. Lee valued family over everything, and her garden was her refuge, where she would work for hours without a break. Lee inspired many with her drive and dedication to succeed. She did all that with the brightest and most beautiful smile that would light up any room.

Manolita Hoz Chesnut served as both Director of Admissions and Director of Public Relations at Charity School of Nursing from 1945 to 1954. She traveled

In Memorium

We publish the names of those alumni who have passed away as we learn of them, with their graduation year and date of death. Farewell to these friends:

Ann McMinn Fabre '38 (7/28/17)
 Ruby Nell Vowell Seghers '48 (5/6/18)
 Carmen Alonso Bermudez '49 (12/20/17)
 Celina Machin Haynie '51 (2/2/18)
 Mary Rohmer White '51 (4/27/18)
 Marjorie Chapman Montaney '54 (5/27/17)
 Marthann Strub Ello '59 (2/22/18)
 Geraldine "Gerry" Owens Fields '59 (10/27/17)
 Rita Raphael Bares '65 (1/14/18)
 Kaye Smith Kingsbery '81 (1/11/18)
 Lee Vern Higgins Dove '83 (4/10/18)
 Shari Reeves Hinojosa '01 (6/21/17)

Faculty & Staff

Manolita Hoz Chestnut (2/15/18)

through the southeastern United States in her efforts at recruiting student nurses. She established Student Nurse Recruitment Week, culminating in editorials in local newspapers, proclamations from the mayor of New Orleans and the governor of Louisiana, and she arranged for a contest at Pontchartrain Beach among the five local nursing schools for Miss Student Nurse. She was on the faculty at Charity and served as mistress of ceremonies at its graduations. She went on to teach high school, sell real estate, and was an active preservationist in New Orleans until her death in February 2018. ❖

Second Chance

Althea "Betty" Broussard Swanson had worked as a teacher for sixteen years before deciding to become a nurse at the age of 50. She graduated in 1993 from LSU School of Nursing and served as President of her class. Betty began her second career as a nurse at Lakeside Hospital and retired in 2010 as the House Supervisor. The sister of CSN faculty member **Ann Burghardt-Dieck '80**, Betty passed away on April 14, 2018.

In the midst of their grief, Ann and her family decided to honor Betty by helping a deserving nursing student. They asked that donations in Betty's memory be made to the Charity Alumni Association to establish the **Betty Swanson Memorial Scholarship Fund**, providing scholarships for a student in need who, like Betty, had chosen to become a nurse as a second career.

In addition, the Charity faculty also made a generous donation to the Alumni Pin Fund to show their sympathy, and Ann will match that donation to provide a Pin →

Award for a Charity nursing student this fall.

Thank you to these generous donors: Stephen Brett Hammock, William and Carol Hasenkampf, Clare A. Madere, **Ellen Williams Manieri '77**, Claire Noble, **Patricia Smart**, and the **CSN Faculty**. ❖

Time to Say Goodbye

By Robin Holliday

Mary Etta Authement was the younger sister of Charity graduate Margaret Palmisano '49. An accomplished artist, Mary Etta created numerous works for the Alumni Association, from etched glassware, to the 2010 Homecoming program cover, to a painting of the Sister Stanislaus Memorial dorm. Despite Margaret's urging, Mary Etta joined us for only one alumni event, so although many of us enjoy Mary Etta's etched champagne glasses or dorm prints in our homes, few had the pleasure of getting to know her. Mary Etta passed away on February 2, 2018. Her daughter Robin Holliday is a student at Charity School of Nursing and shared these memories with us.

My mom loved art, nature and her family – especially her five kids and her grandchildren. She was a country girl. She lived in Covington her whole life. She was a real animal lover - growing up we had horses, a goat, dogs, birds. She loved being in nature, walking, kayaking, or just lying in a hammock with the dogs. She and my dad loved to go walking on the Natchez Trace and collecting rocks there. She liked taking her grandchildren out to walk along the lakeshore, and get them away from the TV and computer screens. We all learned to love nature from her.

Mom was very creative. She painted, drew, etched. She loved to help out different organizations with her art. She was always making artwork and t-shirts to give to our high schools to help them raise money. And of course there were all the things she did for Charity. That was how she was - a loving person who would give you the shirt off her back.

Mom had the privilege of just being our mom. Not everyone has their parents around all the time. My mom was always there for us. She would go to every one of our sporting events - she was the biggest fan! And she was the same with her grandkids. Our friends would go to her for advice, too. She was blunt and honest, but very nurturing. She always said, "You need to figure out what's best for you."



My mom is why I decided to come to nursing school. I learned from her about caring about others. I really want to take care of people.

Of course I was going to go to Charity. When I started, I was up in the main office and I saw my mom's painting of the dorm hanging in the hall! Then I went in the library and saw my aunt's mementos displayed in the case there! I sent Mom a selfie of me wearing my uniform on the first day. She said how proud she was of me - and I remember, she said, "Keep smiling!"

Mom was a very positive person. She taught me to never give up. I would call her after a rough day in clinicals and she would say, "You're strong. You can do it." She was always on my side.

I moved out of my apartment and back in with Mom when I started nursing school. She would cook dinner for the two of us every night - it was great!

She was a good cook too. Not as good as my aunt, but good! I loved her rice and gravy, and her homemade lasagna. We always had these big family meals together at the camp, and my aunt would make her amazing andouille gumbo. The joke was always that Mom's job was to "burn the bread."

I guess I was pretty spoiled. Mom did everything for me - we were so close.

My dad died in 2013 from leukemia. Mom took care of him for the three years he was sick - she dedicated her life to him. When she was diagnosed with Stage 4 lung cancer in November, she refused to get chemo or radiation. She had seen what my dad went through, and didn't want that. The cancer had already spread when she was diagnosed, she had tumors all over.

I was taking care of her while I was in nursing school. I learned a lot caring for her, and applying the things I learned in school. My siblings helped while I was in class and



clinicals - we were very organized. But I was there all night, helping her when she couldn't get up by herself anymore. I was always exhausted, and I ended up having to repeat Level 1.

When I re-enrolled for Level 1 this spring, I don't know how I ended up in Ms. Dieck's clinical group. When I told her what was going on in my life, caring for my mom, she recommended that I defer, to not take a chance on failing again. But I wanted to stay in school. And it was the best decision I ever made. Ms. Dieck was an incredible teacher, tough but wonderful. And the members of my clinical group are the most amazing people. We are all different ages and from different places in life, but we love each other. We are always there for each other. I know they are going to be my lifelong friends. People say that sometimes things happen for a reason. If I hadn't had to repeat Level 1, I never would have met them. I am so grateful that I did.

In February, I knew Mom was close to the end. I called Ms. Dieck to say I wouldn't be in that day, and she talked to me for a while. Then I turned on some classical music for Mom, and I was feeling really tired. I curled up next to her in bed and fell asleep. When I woke up a little while later, I could tell she was gone, and – if you can believe it – the music playing right at that moment was “Time to Say Goodbye.” I think Mom was just waiting for me to be ready to let her go.

I missed half of her funeral service because I had to be at school. She would never have wanted me to miss class, so I didn't. I listen to her voice in the back of my head saying, “Don't give up!” God and my mom are pushing me – and I am doing it for them. I know I want to be a nurse. When I have a patient with a diagnosis similar to my parents, I really connect with them. I would love to work with children with cancer.

I miss hearing the funny stories Mom would tell about her childhood – I'd heard them a hundred times, but I miss that. My niece is 13 and she's a real artist, so we gave her all Mom's art supplies and brushes.

The family is going to get together for a crawfish boil at the camp this summer. It will be the first time we've really gotten everyone together since the funeral. It was always my mom who would get everyone organized. Now I'm going to have to be the bossy one. ❖

Lost Legacy

Lost Legacy is a hauntingly beautiful artwork by **Rae Ann Deroche '84**, featuring an angel wrapping her

wings around Charity Hospital. Everyone who sees it is swept away by how gorgeous it is – and it has special meaning for all of us who love Charity Hospital.

We are making this captivating artwork available to our alumni in several ways! On our website, you can order *Lost Legacy* notecards and 12" x 16" posters anytime. We had an afghan up for raffle at the Spring Luncheon and are planning to do that again at the Fall Breakfast. In addition, we will be selling t-shirts in our Teespring store!

Teespring works this way: We open a “campaign” that runs for 21 days. Starting **August 1**, you can go on the Teespring website and order your Charity shirt with a credit card or Paypal. On **August 21**, the campaign will end, and the shirts are printed and shipped. You will receive your shirt about 2 weeks after the campaign ends. It's that easy! So, from **August 1 to August 21**, go to:

www.teespring.com/charity-nursing-lost-legacy

Select from a variety of colors and styles. Prices start at around \$22 and depend on the shirt style you choose, plus there's a \$3.99 charge for shipping & handling. ❖



Louisiana Enacts Enhanced Nurse Licensure

Louisiana became the 31st state in the nation to enact the Enhanced Nurse Licensure Compact (eNLC) on May 31, 2018, when Governor John Bel Edwards signed Senate Bill 202 into law. The planned implementation date is December 1, 2018. The Compact will give nurses far more travel flexibility, allowing them to practice across state lines in the member states with one multi-state license and without additional applications or fees. ❖

Members of Note

SUSTAINING MEMBERS

Gloria Redmond Ashman ‘48
Margaret Robichaux Elliott ‘49
Rowena Smith Christensen ‘51
Celina Machin Haynie ‘51
Betty Ogea Moore ‘51
Hazel MacKillican Wilson ‘52
Martha Phillips Gentry ‘53
Marijean Martin Pruett ‘54
Rita Jo Neary Ellsworth ‘55
Jean Altice Blake ‘58
Anna Martino Meinert ‘59
Esther Ogea Doucet ‘60
Joan Arceneaux Levasseur ‘60
Frances Petho Aponte ‘61
Joan Bero ‘63
Barbara Johnson Roger ‘63
Dorothy Russell Staggs ‘63
Penny Kistler Tolchin ‘63
Janette Foy Brown ‘64
Geraldine Bourgeois Daigle ‘64
Judith Wellman Quigley ‘64
Estelle LeBlanc Rome ‘64
Linda Sue Grimme Fontenot ‘65
Roberta Purvis Bartee ‘66
Susan Nebel Nielson ‘66
Beverly Poche Chapoton ‘67
Jean Hageney Houin ‘67
Karen Moulliet ‘67
Peggy Portie Parigi ‘67
Betty Schweitzer Touns ‘67
Louanna Cardinale Whiddon ‘67
Mary Wood ‘67
Dr. Marelle Yongue ‘67
Barbara “Bobbi” Bonner Folse ‘68
Patti Rouchon Burcham ‘70
Charlotte Arras ‘71
Marian Foret Offner ‘71
Jo Ann Rizzutto ‘71
D. Paxson Barker ‘72
Rosalie Parenton Vincent ‘72
Dennis and Lynel Pinkozie ‘73
Wilda Taylor ‘73
Mary Iannazzo Trosclair ‘73
Susan Duhon ‘74
Nancy O’Pry Gentry ‘74
Charlene White Persich ‘74
Mary Susan Le Compte Farrar ‘75
Jamie Walker Jensen ‘75
Julie M. Joyce ‘75
Vicky P. Kent ‘75
Maureen Connelly Mayeux ‘75
Barbara McClees ‘75
Joseph Nigliazzo, Jr. ‘75
Graciela Pinto-Leyva ‘75
Jeannette Milligan Saal ‘75
Jan Carrio ‘76
Bryanne Murray Hamill ‘76

Lane E. McAlister ‘76
Myra Lee DiGange ‘77
Sheila Perrault Dahlgren ‘78
Marilyn Nola Hammett ‘78
Joycelyn Jeansonne ‘78
Sandra Tracy Bailey ‘79
Vickie Morrow Gibert ‘79
Cindy Tschrein Nuesslein ‘79
Karen DelValle Tampira ‘79
Claudette Boudreaux ‘80
Belinda Hutchinson Janeski ‘80
Cydney Trahans Begnaud ‘81
Elizabeth Kelly Carlini ‘82
Renee Rago Schuller ‘83
Patricia Dufrene ‘85
Elaine Riecke Bergeron ‘86
Gina West Ragland ‘86
Kevin Besse ‘91
Michael Harrison ‘92
Betty Trosclair Loumied ‘92
Mitzi Ridgdell Arnold ‘93
Craig A. Cedotal ‘94
Penny Authement Schuler ‘94
Margaret Johnson Jackson ‘96
Brenda Shields Simmons ‘96
Elizabeth Scanlan Bowen ‘97
Lista Hank ‘97
Roxanne LeBlanc McNally ‘97
Cynthia Fernandez ‘10
Elaine Lauga ‘12
Danielle Chambers ‘14



SISTER STANISLAUS 2018

Marion Thibodaux Gatti ‘54
S. Joanne Philbrook Newton ‘56
Martha Meaux Genin ‘65
Rita Fay Borne Broussard ‘66
Patricia Darcy Weed ‘68
Paula Favre Brewington ‘69
Ginny Graves Clark ‘69
Carolyn M. Bartsch ‘70
Gayle Guerin Fertitta ‘70
Janice Gates Redlich ‘71
Rosemary Lamia Hemelt ‘72
Debra Hailes Dumas-Hicks ‘77

SILVER STAR 2018

Joyce Allen Urode ‘60
Rosemary Hathorn Holmes ‘62
Leona Lipari Lee ‘63
Marilee Keating Phillips ‘64
Susan Thibodeaux Grace ‘65
Constance Kennedy Proctor ‘65
Joyce Joy Champagne ‘66
Paulette Gallant Gravois ‘67
Mary Ellen Potier Hebert ‘67
Iris LeBlanc LaBruyere ‘67
Brenda Crump Trosclair ‘68
Mary Katherine Landry Bocz ‘69

Francine Taaffe Dyer ‘70
Pam Elias Welsh ‘70
Camille Bourgeois Whittaker ‘70
Christine Hurley Carbon ‘71
Maria Compagno Roth ‘71
Fabian Thibodeaux Whitney ‘71
Patricia Polito Bruno ‘72
Mary Doucet Hains ‘72
Madeline Cerniglia Totten ‘72
Stephanie Laws ‘73
Pamela Schulingkamp Boos ‘74
Donna Blanchard Landry ‘75
Rebecca Carter Fisher ‘76
Connie Bousquet ‘77
Robert J. Martinez ‘79
Nancy Allebone Capponi ‘81
Ross Cunningham ‘84
Deborah Fischer Soniat ‘85
Veronica Gautreaux Theriot ‘85
Patrick D. Reed ‘90
Kevin Adams ‘92
Lyn Willis Scaffidi ‘92
Anne McCutchen Silverstein ‘98
Susan Wentz ‘11
Bryan J. Camus ‘12
Stanley Bagbey, retired faculty

BLUE RIBBON 2018

LaVerne Carter Stevenson ‘44
Frances L. Martine ‘52
Mary Katherine Brune Mollere ‘52
Sheila Fredricks Bayer ‘53
Jocelyn Mae Rice ‘53
Caroline Turner Barker ‘54
M. Delores Carter ‘56
Nell Domangue Colligan ‘56
Nancy Mynihan Comish ‘57
Rosetta Anzalone Tumminello ‘57
Rosemary Myers Breau ‘58
Millie Nash Worner ‘58
Geraldine Nolan Fulks ‘59
Rennie Clark Kaczorowski ‘59
Glenda Moak McKean ‘59
Catherine LaFleur St. Cyr ‘59
Ethel Faciane Friend ‘60
Mary Arnold Gardner ‘61
Antoinette Keating Sykes ‘61
Pamela Maycock Coulter ‘62
Judith Guion Barousse ‘63
Phyllis Bourgeois Beeching ‘63
Karen Krpata Bradley ‘63
Lynne Gordon Cook ‘63
Madeleine Moreau Crawford ‘63
Yvonne Gauthier McGaha ‘63
Brenda Rabren Putman ‘63
Diane Blumberg Howell ‘65
JoAnn Pierce Ligon ‘66
Elaine Ledoux Phares ‘66
Lynn Burton Rosenblatt ‘66
Virginia Faris Angle ‘67
Ellen Inguagiato Olivier ‘67
Carolyn Desselle Righter ‘67
Jacqueline Henry Terrell ‘67
Bonnie Glover Williams ‘67
Lana Collins Craig ‘68

Catherine Blackwell Holland ‘68
Cynthia Hebert Liebel ‘68
Judith Webb McNeil ‘68
Judy LaFleur Ross ‘68
Patricia Murphy Solomon ‘68
Jane Bentel Duggan ‘69
Lorraine Babin Fearheiley ‘69
Myra Bascle Porche ‘69
Josie Bailey Stanga ‘69
Mary Margaret Cavallino ‘70
Dianne Theriot Clavin ‘71
Patricia LaFleur Lewis ‘71
Stevie Reese McLaughlin ‘71
Darilyn Ziifle Schieffler ‘71
Joan Damon Simon ‘71
Lynn May Griggs ‘72
Patricia Populus McNeal ‘72
Susan Pye Stone ‘72
Myra Diaz Cheramie ‘73
Barbara Glover ‘73
Kathy Granier Herman ‘74
Connie Messmer Brown ‘75
Joan Hodge ‘75
Anita Barras Landry ‘75
Janice Breaux Samson ‘75
Marion Sams Johnson ‘76
Kay Beaulieu Kenney ‘76
Yvonne M. Lassere ‘77
Donna Abadie Earles ‘78
Mary K. Maher ‘78
Elaine Schulz Navaille ‘78
Cathryn Parsons Smith ‘78
Karen Howard Smith ‘78
DeeAnne Posseno Jewell ‘79
Patricia Lane ‘79
Bonny McDonald McGee ‘79
Jeanette Davis Robinson ‘80
Karen Jameson Rush ‘80
John Bertucci ‘81
Melissa Manuel Deshotels ‘81
James Craig, Jr. ‘82
Karen Freitag Craig ‘83
Karen Friley ‘83
Ellen Gautreaux ‘83
Joell Ackerman ‘84
Sharon Larche Spencer ‘85
Patsy Scallan Caffery ‘86
Mary Gabriel Russell ‘87
Marie Joseph-Brown ‘88
Margaret Yochum Caruso ‘92
Kim Keith Chatman ‘92
Kathleen Shaner Hyzy ‘92
Frances C. Loeske ‘92
Victoria Monte Hammond ‘94
Lauren M. Terrio ‘96
Regina Danner ‘97
Susan McWalters Rowell ‘98
Marjorie Krol Cheek ‘01
Pamela Thibodeaux Jackson ‘01
Beverly Rainey ‘05
Keesha Berkhalter ‘08
Kemberly Powell Johnson ‘08
Robyn Burchfield ‘10
Kimberly Dunn ‘14
Mary Elaine Ponce-Gaudin ‘16

Members of Note

Continued

*The following were received after
The White Cap 2017:*

SISTER STANISLAUS 2017

Rita Borne Broussard '66
Ginny Graves Clark '69
Allison Wood Drez '91

SILVER STAR 2017

Nancy Mynihan Comish '57
Marilyn Jo Jacob Klein '58
Nina Willis Long '68
Martha Watson Scurria '69
Maria Compagno Roth '71
Ella Ramagos Knight '72
Sherry Smith Simmons '73
Kathryn Ibert Imel '75
Elaine Schulz Navaille '78
Karen Friley '83
Victoria Poche' Millet '85
Estelle Collins Vincent '85

BLUE RIBBON 2017

Marion J. Morgan '51
M. Delores Carter '56
Diane Ducote Rachal '57
Glenda Moak Mckean '59
M. Bettie Unsworth Nolin '63
Barbara Mahoney Helm '66
Joan Musacchia Taylor '66
Carolyn Desselle Righter '67
Judy LaFleur Ross '68
Susan Edwards Berry '69
Patricia Thomas LaFleur Lewis '71
Darilyn Ziifle Schieffler '71
Louise Schwartzberg Harrell '73
Fay Boudreaux Stevenson '74
Lynn Battaglia O'Niell '75
Janice Breaux Samson '75
Yvonne Lassere '77
Sabrina Goodlett '78
Patti Granzin '78
Cindy Albrecht Larsen '78
Mary K. Maher '78
Melissa Manuel Deshotels '81
Lori Monte Besselman '82
Elizabeth Fradella Dorman '87
Lori Sherwood Dykes '87
Deena Dodge Rabalais '90
Monique St. Romain '91
Andrea Thibodeaux '92
Sherri Pierce Hayes '93
Carolyn Robinson-Thomas '93
Lauren M. Terrio '96
Catherine Berns '14
Angela Ingargiola '15

2017-18 Outstanding Donors

*Gifts of \$100 or more to Restricted
Funds since The White Cap 2017*

Alumni Scholarship Fund

Madeline Tolson Markwood '52
Rosalind Goodbread Baldwin '57
Sydney Wood Womack '57
Joan Arceneaux Levasseur '60
Peggy Begnaud Johns '63
Martha Meaux Genin '65
Roberta Purvis Bartee '66
Jacqueline Henry Terrell '67
Barbara Bonner Folse '68
Mary Margaret Cavallino '70
Jo Ann Rizzutto '71
Jan Carrio '76
Connie Bousquet '77

Class of 1964 Scholarship

Charlotte Voinche Guinn '64
Sylvia Obregon Moffitt '64
Frances Patricia Giddings Mullens '64
Marilee Keating Phillips '64
Judith Wellman Quigley '64
Estelle LeBlanc Rome '64

Individual Scholarship Funds

Gloria Redmond Ashman '48
Margaret Robichaux Elliott '49

Sister Camilla Gaudin, D.C. Scholarship

Mary Smith Singletary '49
Saundra Owens Robert '56

Joycelyn Jeansonne Scholarship

Kevin J. Jeansonne, MD

Sister Laurentia Walsh Scholarship

Martha Phillips Gentry '53
Anne Blinn Faist '54

Mary Ann Signorelli Whynot Scholarship

in memory of Capt. Richard Whynot
Bartholomew and Rebecca McAndrews
Catherine Nolan
Karl Whynot

Heber B. Dodson Jr. Pin Award

Evelyn Dodson

Geraldine Owens Fields '59 Pin Award

Lynda Dixon Abney '59
Willene Brown Jordan '59

Joan Trapani Ibos '66 Pin Award

Roberta Purvis Bartee '66

Carolyn Schwarz Myers Pin Award

Dr. Cheryl E. Myers
and the Myers Family

Student Emergency Fund

Joan Bero '63 – *Catastrophic Grants*
Nancy Rooker Dorsa '53
Anne Blinn Faist '54
Betty Chalk Putman '54
M. Delores Carter '56
Rosemary Myers Breau '58

CASN Convention Travel

Jan Carrio '76

Arts & Archives Preservation Fund

Hazel MacKillican Wilson '52
in memory of Carolyn Pattison Roper '52
Lyn Willis Scaffidi '92

Sister Stanislaus Gardening Fund

Ursula Allain '65
Joyceyn Jeansonne '78

Multiple Funds

Margaret Tolson Markwood '52
Cecile Ginger Andry '58
Mary Margaret Cavillino '70
Camille Bourgeois Whittaker '70
Madeline Cerniglia Totten '72 ❖

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Email:
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Website:
www.CharityAlumni.org

Facebook: Charity Alumni NOLA



Flower Power

“I’m just a farm girl,” says Charity faculty member Pam Kemp, “and I’m always happiest when I’m digging in the dirt.” Pam’s passion for planting has led to an underused space being transformed into an extraordinary urban oasis – right at Charity School of Nursing.

The patio off the school’s main lobby is the home of the Alumni Association’s Commemorative Brick Wall. Pam had already done a good bit of landscaping and fixing up in the patio back in 2015 to make the space attractive for alumni to visit during Homecoming that year.

This past semester, Pam ignited the interest of the Charity Student Government Association (SGA) in going much further, with a vision to radically change how students interact with the campus.

Need... and Opportunity

There has long been a need for an area for SGA events like the end-of-semester Crawfish Boil in the spring and Barbeque in the fall, which have for years been squeezed onto the circular drive in front of the Education Building.

With the sad death of the Sister Stanislaus Memorial Oak in the rear yard of the Education Building, an opportunity presented itself. The area could become an outdoor event area.

In addition, the patio could be developed into a lush and welcoming respite by an intense program of landscaping and restoration – creating a Garden Courtyard.

“We are excited to create a safe and comfortable place for our students, faculty, staff and alumni to go have a breather or just sit and enjoy a beautiful day on our campus,” says **Amanda Weinberger**, SGA Treasurer. “We are incredibly passionate about building up our Garden Courtyard and making it useful for everyone, to give a little peace – and show off the alumni wall.”

Making It Happen

The Alumni Association has partnered with the SGA to provide funding to purchase

plants, soil, mulch and tools. Charvet’s Nursery in Metairie donated twelve Encore azaleas, some which now line the area below the Brick Wall.

Flowers, shrubs and even small trees now fill the pots and beds in the courtyard: shrimp plants, hot lips salvia, a Giant Dutchman’s Pipe Vine (that will spread and bear five inch long flowers), red knockout roses, and a bright red bottlebrush tree.

Sitting Pretty

Furniture and features have been repainted. “I trash-picked some perfectly good metal chairs,” says Pam. Seating has been arranged for secluded nooks as well as conversational groupings. Pam painted benches, pots, and even an old file cabinet – which she converted into a huge planter and filled with Mandevilla, purslane, tick weed and hibiscus.



In the rear of the Education Building, where was once little more than a grimy driveway, is now an open and sunny yard. Pam has built up a flower bed there where no one could have imagined anything growing. She even broke up concrete so she could plant a neon pink bottlebrush tree and surround it with white breeches, white grass, white vinca and sea shell Cosmos. The plants and supplies were paid for by donations from **Ursula Allain ‘65** and **Joycelyn Jeansonne ‘78** as a memorial for a friend.

That flower bed is the beachhead for

the next stage of the vision – an outdoor event area for the campus: the Sister Stanislaus Memorial Fairground.

There is still a lot of major, heavy machinery-type work to be done here – particularly clearing out the old roots of the oak and leveling the ground there, but SGA was able to host their Spring Crawfish Boil in the space. “It is so good to be within our own campus, instead of perched on the sidewalk in front of the school,” says Amanda. “The Fairground will be a huge enhancement to campus life.” A satsuma tree and plumbago are putting down roots along the fence.

Pam loves to take folks on tours and her knowledge of plants is extensive. “This was Thomas Jefferson’s favorite flower, the Vigna caracalla, or corkscrew vine,” says Pam fingering some green tendrils. “I ordered it from the Thomas Jefferson Center for Historic Plants. It will have lovely, fragrant, creamy white and fuschia corkscrew-shaped flowers. It’s a prolific vine that will really spread!”

“Everything was selected to attract hummingbirds, bees and butterflies,” says Pam. “Like this magnificent Lady Margaret red passionflower – it screams like a siren song to butterflies.”

Though Pam has personally provided most of the sweat equity, the Courtyard and rear yard allow the Charity community to enjoy that most therapeutic of activities – digging in the dirt. “The students have been so enthusiastic about doing the actual planting,” says Pam. The work is a relaxing, mind-freeing break from classes and studying. “I never knew we had such a love for gardening among our students and faculty,” says Amanda. “It’s great to have so many people involved.”

“Our hope is not only to create a wonderful space,” says Amanda, “but to start getting the students, faculty, staff and alumni more involved in our campus, to build relationships, and boost morale.”

The Sr. Stanislaus Fairground will be an inviting space for camaraderie and fun outdoor activities. The Garden Courtyard is already a place of peace and renewal. The Garden Courtyard is open during regular school hours and alumni are welcome to visit. You will probably run into Pam there, digging in the dirt. ❖

If you would like to volunteer to plant or water, contact the Alumni Office. If you would like to make a donation toward the purchase of plants or other enhancements, you can use the form on page 27.

Opposite page, top to bottom: Pam Kemp watering; students and faculty enjoying the Courtyard; Amanda Weinberger and faculty Betty Wolff with their shovels. This page: The May Crawfish Boil was held in the Fairground behind the Education Building; flower bed by the tents set up for the Crawfish Boil; students sit in front of the Alumni’s Commemorative Brick Wall.



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Fall Alumni Breakfast
SCHOOL DAZE
at Charity
Saturday, Sept. 22

At The Ridgeway, 2431 Metairie Road

Metairie Road at Ridgeway Drive, between Bonnabel and Causeway
(Plenty of free parking around the building
and directly across Ridgeway Drive)

*Menu: Eggs Benedict, Fruit Salad,
Breakfast Pastries, Coffee, Tea and Juice*

**Registration and cash bar open at 9:30am,
Breakfast served at 10:30am.**

*Great food, great friends & great memories -
Plus souvenirs, amazing raffles, door prizes...
and so much more!*

**Please purchase your tickets by
Sept. 8 to guarantee your seating!**

Use the form on page 27 and mail your check for
\$40 per ticket to: CHSN Alumni Association,
Delgado Charity School of Nursing,
450 S. Claiborne Ave, New Orleans, LA 70112
or purchase on our website:

www.CharityAlumni.org

You can use this form...

Or visit our website: www.CharityAlumni.org

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY!

Name: _____ Class: _____
First name Maiden (or Graduation name if different from current name) Last name

Street Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ E-Mail: _____

☐ I want to attend the Alumni Breakfast on Sept. 22



Reserve for me: How many? _____ Breakfast(s) @\$40 each...\$ _____

Bringing a Guest? Please give us the name for their nametag:

PLEASE make your reservation by September 8 to guarantee seating!

Please reserve by the deadline! We need to know how many people to expect because we have to pay in advance for the correct number of attendees.

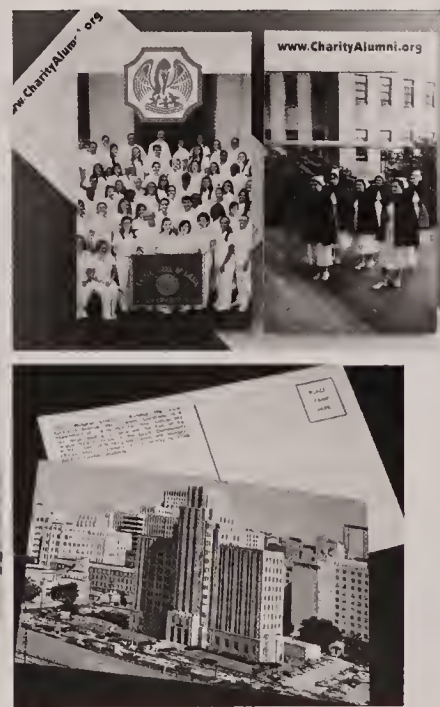
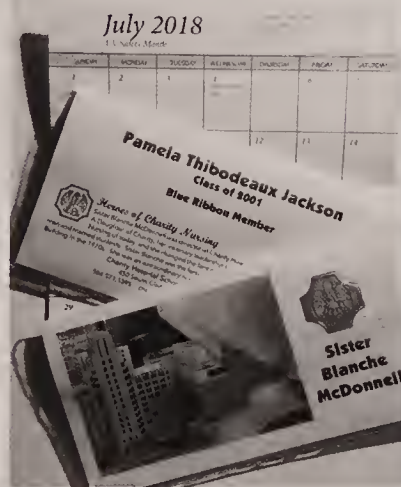
☐ I want to pay my Annual Membership Dues:

- ☐ \$15 Regular Membership
- ☐ \$25 Blue Ribbon Membership*
- ☐ \$50 Silver Star Membership*
- ☐ \$100 Sister Stanislaus Membership*

or ☐ Sustaining Membership: a one-time gift of \$500 (and never pay dues again).*

*Members at the \$25 level or above, please select your choice of:

- ☐ Personalized CHSNAA pocket calendar
- ☐ Charity pocket notepad
- ☐ Vintage postcard of the old Charity Dorm



☐ I want to make a donation to the:

Art & Archives Preservation Fund..... \$ _____

CASN Convention Travel Fund \$ _____

Scholarship Fund..... \$ _____

Sister Stanislaus Gardening Fund..... \$ _____

Student Emergency Assistance Fund..... \$ _____

Other: _____ \$ _____

Mail this form with your check to: CHSN Alumni Association,
 Delgado Charity School of Nursing, 450 S. Claiborne Ave, New Orleans, LA 70112



Charity Hospital School of Nursing
ALUMNI ASSOCIATION
Delgado Charity School of Nursing
450 South Claiborne Avenue
New Orleans, Louisiana 70112

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

www.CharityAlumni.org chsnaaoffice@gmail.com Facebook: Charity Alumni NOLA

Making New Orleans

NOLA.com | The Times-Picayune selected Charity's **Sister Stanislaus Malone** as one of their *300 for 300*, a series recognizing the people who made the City of New Orleans.



As part of this feature in celebration of the New Orleans Tricentennial, a watercolor portrait of Sister Stanislaus was created by artist Alexandra Kilburn of Where Y'Art, and printed in the paper and online. It will also be included in an exhibit at the end of 2018 ❖

Order your tickets today!

Fall Alumni Breakfast

Saturday, September 22

What is that number after my name?

The number immediately after your last name on your mailing label indicates the year your membership expires. For example, "Jane Jones 2018" means your membership expires at the end of 2018. You are current, but you may want to consider renewing your membership now for 2019.

If your label has a "0" or a year earlier than 2018 (such as "2016"), you are overdue! Please join or renew your membership now.

If the numbers on your label are 9999, 8888 or 7777, you are in a specialized membership category (Lifetime, Sustaining or Friend) and you do NOT need to renew your membership, but we do appreciate your donations!

If you have any questions about your membership, call or email the Alumni office. ❖



Charity Hospital School of Nursing & Charity School of Nursing

Alumni News

Winter 2018

Charity School of Nursing, 450 South Claiborne Avenue, New Orleans, Louisiana 70112

Alumni Office 504-571-1395 chsnaaoffice@gmail.com www.CharityAlumni.org Facebook: Charity Alumni NOLA

From the President

By Patrick Brady '83

I am always in awe of our alumni! Our September Breakfast was a huge success and many of our alumni celebrated milestone anniversaries. I did a few calculations and we had over six thousand years of nursing experience in that room!

Alumni Associations are all about celebrating the glories of the past – but we also, too often, find ourselves saying farewell. Each alumni that passes is a profound loss to their families – but also a huge loss to our Charity community. Each was a classmate, a roommate, a friend. Among those who died this year are **Marie Beaulieu '46** who attended every alumni function, and **Gloria Ashman '48** who gave as much as she could each year to the scholarship program.

But what strikes me is how I see Charity folks responding to these losses. **Joyce Leissner '57** and her husband lost two of their children – and established an endowed scholarship in their memory. **Rose Jeanne Buccola '49** created an endowment in honor of her late husband Vic and Sister Laurentia, and the Hilbert Family remembered their mom **Leona Hilbert '46**, their dad and sister with an endowed scholarship as well. Beth Butler called the Alumni Office after her mom **Nancy Rodgers '83** died to find out how to set up a scholarship to memorialize her. Scholarships, Pin Awards, even just a small donation to the Alumni Association – in so many cases, in times of our greatest sadness, our response is to find a way to help Charity students. To see in each new nurse that graduates a kind of eternal life.

Charity Heroes

We look to the past with joy, nostalgia, and sometimes sadness. But we also look to the future. **Sally Cooper '59** was the Dean of the School of Nursing in the late 1980s when hospitals around the country were closing their nursing schools, moving from the hospital-based diploma educational model to university-based nursing degrees. Like the nursing schools at Hotel Dieu and Southern Baptist, Charity's School of Nursing could be going on



Left to right, Alumni Secretary Joycelyn Jeanson '78 and President Patrick Brady '83 at the Fall Breakfast.

today as only an alumni association – no new graduates to become new members each year, all gradually fading away. Sally was

determined that would not happen. She led the school through its merger with Delgado College, the development of its Associate Degree program, and its transition into the Delgado Charity School of Nursing of today.

The history of Charity nurses is full of heroes (**Maria Roach '38**, who died this year at 102, immigrated from Mexico as a child and flew air evacuation planes in World War II!) I am sure Sally Cooper never thought of herself as a hero, but she certainly was! She had courage and vision and an absolute determination that the School of Nursing would continue to produce excellent nurses.

Super Heroes

The theme for our Spring Luncheon will be “Charity is My Super Power!” Along with our nerves of steel and super-human strength, Charity gave us the ability to see into the future – and all the promise it holds. We see the future in each new group of students that walks anew in the same building where we agonized over tests and care plans – and made our friends for life.

It is a favorite sport of alumni to talk about how it was “in my day.” (Hmm, does that make us old?) But here’s another super hero you’ll recognize – Transformers! The power to change, to embrace the future, to see the Charity Spirit reborn in each new generation. We all cherish the legacy of Charity. But the greatest super power we can claim is our commitment to her future and each future Charity Nurse.

Thank you all for your incredible commitment and support for Charity and her students. And best wishes for a wonderful holiday season to you and yours! ❖

From the Executive Director

By Lista Hank '97

If I got the *Alumni News* out any later in the year, it would have been a New Year's Edition! I know everyone is anxious to read about the school and your classmates. If you haven't written or emailed lately, please let us know what you are up to.

As always, the ballot for the new Board of Directors is included in the Alumni News, but this year it's a bit of a snoozer – everyone is a sitting board member and running unopposed! Well, we can be very grateful for a wonderful and proven slate of candidates! But if you've ever thought you might want to get involved, just contact the Alumni Office, and we'll send you a schedule of upcoming meetings. Anyone is welcome to attend Board Meetings to see what we do – it's probably less work and more fun than you think!

Don't forget to renew your membership! It's only \$15 annual dues to get two newsletters a year, and to support all the great stuff the Alumni Association does. Renew on our website or mail in the form on page 22.

Pow! Wham! Boom!

The Spring Luncheon will be April 6 at the elegant Hilton New Orleans Airport Hotel. It is going to be a blast as we celebrate (Shazzam!) our Charity Super Powers! You know the feeling – when you do something kinda cool and resourceful and suddenly flash on the exact moment you learned it in nursing school! Or you manage to get through the most unbelievably awful, crazy day of your career - and instead of feeling totally enervated, you feel really proud and cocky! You're a Charity Nurse!

Dress like your favorite super hero, or the embodiment of the Charity super ability you are most proud of – or come as you are! But please join us for a day of memories, fun and friendships – old and new! You can mail in the form on page 23, or purchase your tickets at our website www.CharityAlumni.org. The food will be terrific and the company will be, well... pretty SUPER!

My Personal Thanks

On a personal note, my husband passed away this fall, and I want to thank everyone for your kind thoughts, your prayers and your hugs. I especially want to thank the Alumni Board of Directors and Advisory Committee for taking up a collection among themselves and creating two scholarships for Charity students in Steve's memory. Steve was a teacher, so he would have appreciated this kind of memorial. It certainly means a lot to me.

If you can't imagine anything more humbling than that, here it is: the CASN and SGA students made individual donations to create a Pin Award in Steve's name. It is impossible for me to express how touched I am by this. Steve was always proud that I became a nurse. I know he would have been very proud of each one of you. Thank

you all so very much.

Now, everyone go order your Luncheon tickets! And as always, please keep in touch! ❖

Dean's Report

By Cheryl E. Myers, PhD, RN

Executive Dean CSN Campus/Dean of Nursing

Time flies when you're having fun - that is definitely true!! It's hard to believe we are getting ready to say goodbye to 2018. Faculty, staff and students have been working hard to uphold the Charity legacy. The classes of December 2017 and May 2018 both achieved a 96% pass rate on the NCLEX-RN! We are proud of their accomplishment and wish them well in their new profession.

I have told you in the past about the plans for a new building to house the college's nursing and allied health programs. We are moving forward to bring this to fruition. The LSU Medical School building at 1542 Tulane Avenue, next to Big Charity, has been identified as the site for this project. We recently began meeting with the architectural team who will be designing the new spaces. The project timeline takes us into the 2020-21 year, so I will keep you posted on our progress.

In August of this year, Chancellor Joan Davis left the college for a position at the system office. **Dr. William Wainwright**, Chancellor of Northshore Technical Community College, has been appointed Interim Chancellor. We welcome Chancellor Wainwright and hope he will be able to come out and meet with alumni at one of the upcoming events.

Our CASN students continue to uphold the Charity reputation. At the recent LASN convention, our group received many awards: Most Heart of Hope, Best Overall Scrapbook, and many raffle and scavenger hunt winners. **William Pellegrin**, a Level III student, received the highest award as Honorary Member of the Year.

Thanks to the generous donations from many alumni, over \$8,600 in scholarships and Pin Awards were distributed this fall to deserving students. Your support of the students is an integral component of their success and we appreciate the opportunities you are presenting for our students to achieve their dream of being a Charity graduate.

Additionally, a HUGE thank you to the Leissner family for creating the **Joyce Bonaventure Leissner and Jim Leissner Scholarship Fund** in memory of their son Nathan and daughter Laura. Their donation of \$10,000 was matched by the Louisiana Board of Regents, creating a \$20,000 endowment to fund scholarships that will go on assisting Charity nursing students forever. It is a wonderful legacy for Jim and Joyce and their children.

Wishing you all a safe and peaceful holiday season. ❖

School Daze & A Second Line

It was a magical morning in September as Charity graduates gathered to celebrate milestones and create new memories at the Fall 2018 Alumni Breakfast. As President **Patrick Brady '83** tried to quiet the happy and raucous crowd, he laughed and said, "A noisy group is a great group!"

Jenn Garnand '11 gave a beautiful and thoughtful blessing. As they ate, the extraordinary gathering of over 170 alumni filled the Ridgeway on Metairie Road with laughter and old stories.

Patrick marked the passing of a dear friend. **Marie Gaudet Beaulieu '49** died in August, and none of us could remember ever coming to an alumni event when Marie wasn't there. Marie's daughter **Kay Kenney '76**, who always accompanied her mom, brought her own daughter Jeanne. (We hope that is the start of a new tradition!) Kay shared a few words about her mother and **Bobbie Bartee '66** made a \$100 donation for a Pin Award in Marie's memory. Kay promised that she would continue the Pin Award in coming years.

Dr. Cheryl E. Myers, Executive Dean of the School of Nursing, gave her report (*you can read it on page 2*) and marveled at all the Charity spirit in the room! Dr. Myers said the faculty tries to instill this same spirit in the current students, and thanked the alumni for all their support.

Special Recognition

Executive Director **Lista Hank '97** introduced **Joyce Bonaventure Leissner '57**. Joyce and her husband Jim donated \$10,000 last year to create an endowed scholarship in memory of their late children, Nathan and Laura. Their gift was matched by the Louisiana Board of Regents forming a \$20,000 endowment that will fund scholarships for Charity nursing students forever. Joyce and Jim had been unable to attend the Breakfast last year because Jim's Texas A&M class reunion was the same weekend! We were delighted that Joyce was able to join us at this breakfast, and have her picture taken with the Big Check! Joyce was accompanied on her visit to New Orleans by her three daughters: Blanche, Diane and Naomi. The Board hopes to make the first award of the Leissner Scholarship next fall.

Gifts and Scholarships

After their 50th reunion in 2014, Class →



Left to right, top to bottom: Jeanne Kenney, Roberta Bartee '66 and Kay Kenney '76; Joyce Leissner and her daughters with Dean Cheryl Myers; Classmates Charlotte Guinn, Marilee Phillips, Estelle Rome and Judith Quigley hold a certificate for the Class of 9/11/64 Scholarship.





Top to bottom: The Class of 1968 celebrates their 50-Year reunion; the Second Line.

of 1964 classmates **Charlotte Guinn, Marilee Phillips, Judith Quigley and Estelle Rome** were determined to keep in touch and see each other often. When they would travel to visit each other, they decided the best hostess gifts would be donations to benefit Charity students. That idea evolved into the **Class of 9/11/64 Scholarship** funded by generous gifts from the four friends as well as donations by other classmates. The first \$500 scholarship was awarded in September. Charlotte, Marilee, Judith, Estelle and six other classmates were all at the Breakfast to celebrate the scholarship and the endurance and power of friendship!

Roll Call and Rowdiness

When the Class of 1968 was in school, one of the faculty remarked on their rowdiness – and the name stuck! This year, “**The Rowdy Class of ’68**” marked their Golden Anniversary with a reunion of enormous proportions! Thirty-six graduates attended the Breakfast (and more were at their other weekend events). They all wore matching t-shirts with the Charity Pin on the front and a hurricane graphic on the back proclaiming their status as “Betsy’s Golden Girls” – recalling the storm that struck within a week of their arrival on campus. And they lived up to their reputation! When Patrick and Secretary **Joycelyn Jeansonne ’78** came to 1968 in the Roll Call of Classes, the ’68ers rose in unison and launched into a



Second Line! They wound their way throughout the assembled alumni, throwing beads and waving handkerchiefs and umbrellas to celebrate 50 years!

The **Class of 1958** celebrated their 60th reunion with six classmates in attendance to receive their Platinum Anniversary Certificates. The **Class of 1983** had so much fun at their reunion back in 2013 that they came back for a 35th reunion with eleven on hand to celebrate!

Caps and Capes

The Breakfast theme of “School Daze” was marked by bobble-head centerpieces of nursing students wrestling with giant stethoscopes and syringes, or overwhelmed with giant pill bottles and all the mysteries of pharmacology! Some alums wore silly scrubs or funny nurse t-shirts. **Sandra Owens Robert ’56** wore her Charity cape and cap – “a *real* Charity cap” that had to be starched and secured with pins. “And after the Breakfast I’m donating it to the alumni,” she said, along with her amazing nursing school scrapbook. “No one in my family cares about this stuff, but I know the alumni will,” said Sandra.



Merlin Leonard Simek '53 brought her cape to donate, too. "I want it to make some money for the students," she said. **Carolyn Karpick '68** was in tears when she saw Merlin carrying her cape. "I missed the chance to get a cape," she said, due to taking a few semesters off. A deal was struck – and Carolyn now has a beautiful cape to love and Merlin knows \$200 will go to help Charity students!

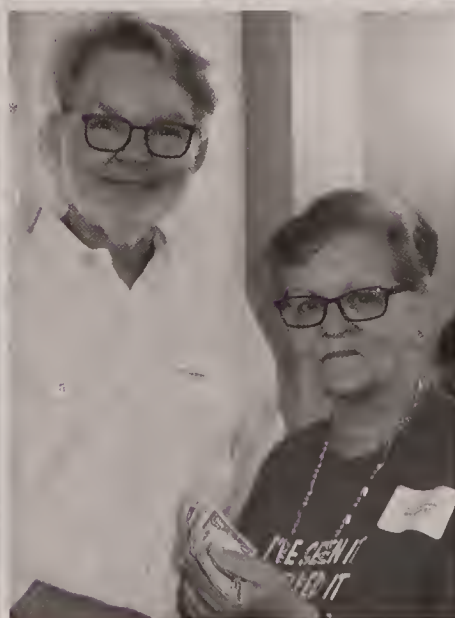
Raffles included a gorgeous framed cross-stitch of the Charity pin donated by **Kathy Hug '65**. Kathy does such beautiful work and her regular donation of these cross-stitch pieces is a wonderful boon to those of us whose relationship to needles is purely medicinal – like raffle winner **Patty Dufrene '85**!

The raffle for the *Lost Legacy* afghan, designed by **Rae Ann DeRoche '84**, was won by **Cathy Elstner '83**. The raffle for the papier-mache Pelican Plaque by Joseph Barth was won by **Lisa Penzato Reso '00**.

Student scholarship recipients, CASN members and SGA representatives were there and sold Charity t-shirts that were wildly popular! Our friend **John Batty** was there selling his book *Voices of Angels* and donated one as a door prize, as well as \$50 to the Student Emergency Assistance Fund.



Left to right, top to bottom: Elaine Bond, Ginger Andry, Anne Daigle, Myrna Smith, Lorre Lei Jackson and Lillian Gray of the Class of 1958; Saundra Robert '56, Rose Jeanne Buccola '49 and Lillian Samardzija '60; Merlin Simek '53 and Carolyn Karpick '68; Margaret Loisel and Betty Hebert, Class of '68; Patrick Brady '83 and Lucy Whiddon '67.



Lucy Whiddon '67 won the 50/50 Drawing - taking home \$283!

Cindy Beniger and Linda Monica of the Class of '68 led the singing of the Alma Mater – despite being hoarse from all the reunion festivities, and we parted with promises to see each other again in April! ❖

Left to right, top to bottom: Bonnie McNeese '68; Peggy Johns, Karen Bradley, Judith Barousse and Barbara Murray of the Class of '63; Doris Burvant '60 and Karen Moise '68; Patrick Reed '80 and Jenn Garnand '11; Linda Monica '68 and Linda Songy '68; Lana Craigo '68 and Amanda Babin '68; Sharon Burel '80 and student Monica Hevessey; Judy Ake '89; Patrick Brady, Gertrude McKinney, Cathy Elstner, Donna Dauterive, Lori Morris, Gregory Jacob, Betty Jo Mitchell, Giselle Murphy, Cynthia Edwards and Karen Craig of the Class of '83; Lucille Castine '57; Judy Ross '68 and Billie Wagnon '68; Brooke Troxclair '17; the Leissner Family: Diane, Joyce Leissner '57, Naomi and Blanche; Patty Dufrene '85 and Dean Cheryl Myers.



Charity Association of Student Nurses Stands Out at State Convention

By Brandi Borden, CASN President

The 64th Annual Louisiana Association of Student Nurses (LASN) Convention was incredible! Eleven CASN members represented Charity School of Nursing at the Convention in Marksville, Louisiana, this fall. There were great focus sessions and speakers, including sessions by two Charity Alumni, **Melinda S. Ferrell**, MSN, APRN, NNP-BC, Charity Class of 1989, and **Jenn Garnand**, RN, CEN, NRP, FP-C, Charity Class of 2011.

Hearts of Hope Donations

CASN won the award for the most Hearts of Hope donations! Thank you to the faculty, staff, alumni, students, and families who donated items, and a special thank you to Target of Covington for their large donation of school supplies. Because of your generosity, Hearts of Hope in Lafayette is able to provide clothes, toys, stuffed animals, and school supplies for victims of sexual assault.

Scrapbook is a Star

CASN won the award for Best Overall Scrapbook! **Laura Gamber**, CASN Historian, used her creativity and ability to think outside the box to put together a stand-out scrapbook! She represented each competitive category (cover, description of activities, and creativeness) while also incorporating the LASN theme "Nurses Call the Shots" into our Scrapbook. Laura had so much fun coming up with ideas! She has also designed t-shirts for various events that CASN members participate in.

Students in Spotlight

CASN's *Breakthrough to Nursing* Coordinator, **William Pellegrin**, received a Student Spotlight award! He also received the most prestigious award LASN has to offer, the 2017-2018 Honorary Member of the Year Award! Throughout the year, William helped LASN by designing their fundraising t-shirt, donating several items to be raffled, and contributing his time to help LASN before convention started.

Laura Gamber, **Melissa Mueller**, and **Kristina Landry** won first place in the Convention Scavenger



Hunt. **Kasey Hall** won a raffle for a two-year subscription to Picmonics and another raffle for a Paragon Hotel package including room, dining, and spa service. **Kristina Landry** also won two raffles: for a Picmonics subscription and a voucher for Performance Scrubs.

New Terms

Three CASN members who served on the 2017-2018 LASN Board of Directors ended their terms at the Convention. **Megan Guitreau**, LASN Fundraising Director, and **Brandi Borden**, LASN Parliamentarian, said farewell to their positions. However, we are excited to announce that **Lindsey McDaniel** was re-elected as LASN Historian and we are confident she will do another amazing job again this year!

New Friends

Thank you to the Charity faculty, staff, and alumni for supporting, guiding, and helping us as we develop our skills as leaders. We also appreciate the

opportunity to attend conventions, listen to amazing speakers, learn about the many nursing opportunities, and build friendships along the way. ❖



Top to bottom, left to right: Laura Gamber holds her award-winning scrapbook; William Pellegrin shows his certificates for the Student Spotlight Award and Honorary Member of the Year Award; eleven CASN students attended the state student nurse convention this fall.

SGA Report

Greetings, Charity Alumni!

The Charity Student Government Association would like to thank you immensely for inviting us to your Fall Alumni Breakfast! We thoroughly enjoyed being able to meet and visit with you, hear your stories, learn from you, get advice and share a wonderful meal together.

One of our members (and a first time attendee) Erin Cloonan, Level 2, writes, "I am truly grateful for the opportunity of attending the Alumni Breakfast. Witnessing the comradery and support showed by the alumni was inspiring. I admire the dedication to fostering the spirit of Charity. I look forward to joining the ranks of Charity graduates who through their mentorship have displayed a positive example of becoming an active alumni member."

To fill you in on past and upcoming events this semester: SGA presented a Breast Cancer Awareness and Hazing Prevention event in October. We had a Susan G. Komen representative, a Hazing Prevention display, gave out student-designed breast cancer awareness shirts, provided pizza, and collaborated with CASN to encourage students to donate blood at the blood drive.

Our Level 4 *Countdown to Graduation* board can be seen on the third floor, marking the days until the December 18 graduation. SGA provided funds to facilitate its creation. The theme is *The Wizard of Oz* and faculty members graciously participated by becoming characters. The Flying Monkeys are Mrs. Dieck, Mr. Durling, Mrs. Shoemake and Mrs. Garrity; the Tornado that drops us off in Oz is Mr. Salas, the Scarecrow is Mrs. Brown, the Tin Lady is Mrs. Dufrene, the Lion is Dr. Barrow and the Great and Powerful Oz is Dean Myers. We have also



Left to right, above, at the Fall Alumni Breakfast: Erin Cloonan, Amanda Weinberger, Mira Bull, Brandi Borden, William Pellegrin, Shelley Blanda, Angele Rains, Monica Hevessy, and Alexa Mora; below: Shelley Blanda, Karen Bonilla, and Angele Rains were part of the committee that created the Countdown to Graduation board.

ordered the class banner for the graduating seniors.

We would also like to thank the Alumni Association for hosting the Senior Lunch at the Level 4 Professional Issues day on November 20. The students were abuzz about the first year of membership you graciously extended to them and are excited to join the ranks of our prestigious alumni!

The upcoming Level 4 banquet hosted by the SGA for the December 2018 graduating class will be on the evening of December 5 at Andrea's Restaurant. We congratulate these students on all their hard work and accomplishments as they close out their time as students here at Charity.

Our big end-of-the-semester event will be our Fall BBQ, themed "Nursing Skills & Grills." It will be held December 7 in the courtyard and backyard. This is where the Alumni have helped support a beautiful garden area. We are excited to enjoy it once again for a campus event.

We are already beginning to plan for our upcoming Spring Orientation in January which we know will bring another amazing semester full of adventure and excitement for our students!

On behalf of the students of Charity, thank you for all of your support, and the kindness and generosity you show the students.

From the SGA Executive Board:

Angele Rains, President

Amanda Weinberger, Vice-President

Mira Bull, Secretary

William Pellegrin, Treasurer





Scholarships and Awards

In September, the Alumni Association presented \$8,600 in scholarships and awards to twenty Charity students! All were made possible by the generosity of Charity alumni, friends and faculty who believe so strongly in the current Charity nursing students. Thank you to everyone who made donations, and congratulations to these recipients:

Above, left to right, top to bottom:

Levels 2 and 3:

Brandon Filerman, Sister Laurentia Walsh Scholarship;
Bethany Robeaux, Sister Blanche McDonnell Scholarship;
William Pellegrin, Sister Camilla Gaudin Scholarship;
Amanda Weinberger, Hugh and Maria Garcia Roach Scholarship;
Gary Pierce, Class of 9-11-64 Scholarship;
Laurie Siekkinen, Gloria Redmond Ashman Scholarship;
Kashanda Foley, Joan Bero Scholarship; **Ahoefa Agbobli**,
 Leona Kruebbe and Dr. Gerard Hilbert Scholarship.

Level 4:

Melissa Mueller, Joycelyn Jeansonne Scholarship;
Alexa Mora, Margaret Elliott Scholarship;
Shelley Blanda, Sally Cooper Scholarship;
Angele Rains, Mary Ann Signorelli Whynot Scholarship.

Level 4 Pin Awards:

Karen Bonilla, Allyson J. Dean Pin Award;
Kevin Ayestas, Mary Etta Authement Pin Award;
Magan Resendez, Arthur Joseph DeLima Jr. Pin Award;
Natashia Swan, Carolyn Schwarz Myers Pin Award;
Rachel Meunier, Heber B. Dodson Jr. Pin Award; and
 (not pictured) **Kathryn Wittkamp**, John O'Reilly Breeden
 Pin Award.

The Federation of Registered Professional and Licensed Practical Nurses of Charity Hospital Awards were presented to **Andrew Reeves** in the RN program, and **Ahanti Henderson** in the PN program. ❖



Alumni Recognitions & Notes

These twenty-two Charity Alumni were among the Great 100 Nurses honorees for 2018:

Kathy Roth Jones '76
Rhonda K. Eubanks '78
Cindy Pittman Dimaggio '81
Suzanne Jacques Pfefferle '81
Alesia Payne Thompson '85
Margaret Wagley Kohl '89
Charlotte Morgan Parent '89
Stephanie Coghlin Ryan '91
Melody R. Kennedy '95
Phylis Merz Panquerne '95
Cheree Wiggins '95
Holly Leckelt Chuter '01
Shannon C. Atkinson '04
Jennie A. Miele '08
Terry A. Tate '08
Lisa A. Hoffman '09
Desiree D. Compton '10
Dawn M Clark-Young '11
Raphael A. Palacios '11
Nicky Culotta '13
Amy B. Finnegan '16
Tabitha R. Khidirov '16



These exemplary nurses were selected for the honor based on their concern for humanity, their contribution to nursing, and their mentoring of others. The award celebration was held on October 24.

Ruth Christ Sullivan Wyngate '45 (*Barboursville, WV*): Ruth was a Cadet Nurse at Charity, and after graduating she served as a nurse in the U.S. Army and earned a master's degree in Public Health. In 1960, her son Joseph



Ruth Wyngate '45 (right) with her son Joseph.

was diagnosed with autism, and Ruth discovered how little knowledge there was of the disease, and how many myths existed even in the medical community.

Ruth was a natural organizer, and quickly decided that the many parents who were raising autistic children needed to get together to help each other and become activists to spur awareness and research. In 1965, she helped create the National Society for Autistic Children, now known as the Autism Society of America. Ruth was its first elected president and is on the permanent honorary board of the society.

Ruth was the founder and Executive Director of the Autism Services Center, a nonprofit, behavioral health care agency that she founded in Huntington, West Virginia in 1979. It now provides services in four counties to families who have a family member with developmental disabilities. She retired from the Autism Services Center in 2007 at the age of 83.

Ruth served as a consultant on autistic behavior for the groundbreaking 1988 movie *Rain Man*. Dustin Hoffman worked with Sullivan and her son Joseph when practicing for his role, and thanked them in his Oscar speech.

Ruth was one of the lobbyists for Public Law 94-142 (the Education of All Handicapped Children Act, now known as the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, or IDEA), which guaranteed a public education to all children in the United States. Before the passage of the law, individual school districts in most states were allowed to choose whether they were willing to educate a child with disabilities.

Ruth has given presentations in countries including Australia, South Africa, Kuwait, the Netherlands, Argentina, and France. She has written articles on autism from the point of view of parents and of care providers, most recently in the *Handbook of Autism and Pervasive Developmental Disorders*. She wrote the foreword to *The Way I See It: A Personal Look at Autism and Asperger's* by Temple Grandin, an adult with autism; she was the person who first asked Temple Grandin to speak in public about her autism. She is one of the founders of NARPAA, the National Association of Residential Providers for Adults with Autism.

"My mother is now in an assisted living facility," writes Ruth's daughter Julie Sullivan Winn. "But her long-term memory is very good still and she still reads, does email, etc. She really is an amazing person. Older memories are coming to the surface, as if revealed when the curtain of the recent past is lifted. Her best friend all her life was her Charity classmate **Emily Karam Shorts '45**. She loved Charity and the nuns and talks about them a lot. I think it was a high point in her life."

Marilyn Landry Roccaforte '46 (*Groves, TX*): "Big Charity played a huge part in my life. I worked at

St. Mary's Hospital in Port Arthur, Texas, and my pin and cap were recognized by several local doctors who had interned or were residents at Charity. I am 92 years old, but in relatively good health."

Ramona Moorefield Updegraff '50 (St. Petersburg, FL): "Glad to hear that all of you are still great – and producing great nurses! I graduated in 1950 – the best class ever! I am still active and still continuing to enjoy my past and looking forward to the future – four children, thirteen grandchildren, three great-grandchildren. Enclosed are my dues – and dues for my classmate **Janet Talbot Green '50** in Madison, Mississippi. Please send her the newsletter. Thanks, and God Bless!"

Thelma Walker Byrne '59 (Dallas, TX): "My mom graduated from Charity School of Nursing in 1959. Her nursing career meant a great deal to her and her time at Charity is something she always speaks fondly of. Not just of what she learned in the classroom and the clinic, but of the friends she made and the time she spent in New Orleans. She and my dad (who went to Tulane) moved to Dallas in 1968 with four kids (all born at Charity Hospital) and they had one more daughter in Dallas. Mom stayed home with us until the last child was in kindergarten, then she went back to nursing. She moved into administration and eventually got a master's degree in economics. Her nursing career paired with her degree made her invaluable in the places she worked. I could not be more proud of or impressed by her.

Recently Mom mentioned sadly that she lost her nursing pin years ago while working at Baylor University Medical Center. I didn't realize that had happened but apparently it had always bothered her.

For her 80th birthday this past August, her family planned a big celebration on Labor Day weekend. Her husband Gene, their five children and their spouses, twelve grandchildren and three great-grandchildren all



Above: Thelma Byrne's family at her 80th birthday party

gathered in Dallas to mark the occasion. With the help of the Alumni Office, we were able to order a replacement Charity pin. We presented the pin to her at the party. She was so surprised and thrilled to have her pin again! I've sent a couple of photos from the day – one of her opening the gift, and one of the whole family. Thanks again for your help!"

- Michelle Byrne



Above: Thelma Byrne '59 opening her pin

Bettie Unsworth Nolin '63 (Bossier City, LA): "Wish I could be with ya'll this year – maybe in the spring! Once again I am off on a pilgrimage with my church – a cruise of the Greek Isles. I am leading it and having a fantastic time. I retired from the VA in Shreveport in 2000 and have never looked back. I still lead two Weight Watchers classes on Thursdays and Fridays, and walk each day. I've sold Mary Kay for 35 years now. I also bring Communion to the sick in the hospital and nursing home one day a week. I am so blessed to have my healthy husband of 54 years, two children and 6 grandchildren – all grown up with the last two in college. I will send pictures of Greece next time. Here is a picture in France from last year. My daughter Donna goes with me – my husband won't!



My training at CHNO has been part of who I am since I graduated. I learned from the best and was taught to think and use what I had on hand – LOL! I'll never forget all my training. God bless each and every one of you!"

Bettie Nolin '63 (left) with her daughter Donna in Paris.

Susan 'Scottie' Dowd '97 (Picayune, MS) received a Nurses To Watch Award from the American Health Council. Scottie is a RN in both Louisiana and Mississippi and is a certified case manager. She served as a Louisiana Certified Court Reporter for many years prior to entering the Nursing Profession and is an experienced Medical Litigation Specialist working with Louisiana medical malpractice and liability cases.

Jenn Garnand '11 (New Orleans, LA) was honored as the Hero of the Game at the New Orleans Baby Cakes Labor Day baseball game on September 3. Jenn threw out the first pitch to start the game and had a radio interview broadcast by iHeartRadio during the game. →

Jenn graduated from Charity in May 2011, and started her RN career in the Ochsner Main Campus ED. She went on to become a paramedic, a flight nurse with Ochsner Rescue 1, and a firefighter with the Third District volunteer fire department in Jefferson Parish. She teaches BLS, ACLS, PALS, and EKG. Jenn is also a mom! She has been a guest speaker at CASN meetings, served on the Charity Alumni Board, and is now on the Alumni Advisory Committee. In her spare time, she participates in triathalons throughout the United States!

Jenn was nominated for the honor by CASN member Kasey Hall, who views Jenn as a mentor. "Jenn is an inspiration to many of us here at Charity," says Kasey. "We are so proud of all of Jenn's accomplishments. Jenn has done so much for others."

Sister Miriam Rivera, S. de Martinez '16 (Oxnard, CA):

"I am truly living the spirit of Charity in a new role my Congregation has entrusted to me. The Auxiliary Sister of our Novitiate works in collaboration with the Mother Mistress for the formation of the new candidates. My mission is to help new Postulants learn to be Servants of Mary Minister to the Sick and acquire the knowledge and experience to be ready to say yes to God not just as a profession, but as their true vocation. It is for me a great grace and privilege to be part of their vocational journey.

I completely agree with the quote, 'Charity didn't just prepare me to be a good nurse, it prepared me for a good life.' Absolutely, Charity has prepared me to deepen the meaning and purpose of my life and give it in service. Not long ago, I came to understand that "charity" is nothing more than love made visible, or better said: love in action.

I truly believe my time at Charity was an important part in my development and in my readiness to serve and give my life in formation now. The love and admiration for my teachers has always helped me to get from them all the good they have and make it part of myself.

I'm so proud to be part of the alumni now. The scholarship I received from the alumni while I was a student was truly a blessing and honor. Please give my greetings to everyone. I continue supporting you in my prayers as you support so many who strive to become Charity Nurses."

Pictured: Sister Miriam Rivera '16 (right) with Mother Mistress Claudia Rodriguez (left), a graduate of the LPN program in 1993.

Tabitha Khidirov '16 (Violet, LA) received the Rookie of the Year Award at the 17th Annual Louisiana Nurses Foundation Nightingale Awards. Tabitha was one of seventeen Nightingale awards presented in Baton Rouge in March. ❖



Facebook Posts

A few posts from Charity Alumni NOLA:

Warren Hebert '79: "CHNO was a great place to learn. I was there just after turning 17, for x-ray tech school from '74 to '76. I worked as an x-ray tech at night at CHNO to pay my way through the School of Nursing from '76 to '79. Then I worked hemodialysis and renal transplant at Charity for my first six months as a RN."

Erin Lambert '80: "Three years at Charity Hospital School of Nursing. Best years of my life. The Big Free was the best."

Patricia Laster Facquet '81: "3.5 years of Nursing School @ CHSN - unbelievable, phenomenal experience. I spent my nursing student years working on W/E 1st, on 4th Floor West Orthopedics and the MER/MAR. After graduation I worked on 10 West Neonatal Unit as Night Supervisor. My nursing education and clinical experiences prepared me very well to work in NOLA inner city schools where my office turned into a MASH Unit. I am currently a Professor of Nursing and Public Health at Adelphi University College of Nursing and Public Health in Garden City, NY. I bring the 'Charity Method of Nursing Education' to all of my lectures and clinical rotations. #CharityForever."

Melanie Milliman Ledet '89: "Proud Charity Grad! Thank you, Ms. Schaff, for making me stick it out!! Your support and compassion helped me get where I am today!!!"

Angela Jackson '95: "I'm a proud Charity grad. I was born at Big C, Mom worked there for 35+ years, my son was born there, and my career began there. I finally gathered the strength to watch the Big Charity film. Through many tears my heart swelled and I burst with pride knowing that I could relate to the discussions about those hallowed halls... the energy, the miracles, the sense of family. I'm SO HAPPY I found this page!!!"

Richard Bridges: "Charity Hospital and the people who worked and trained in it will always be some of the best. A wonderful building full of history. Can only hope that it will be used for something worthy of the care it once provided."

Cameron McCaig: "I have to say... I'd be seriously interested in obtaining a 'residential unit' in the new Charity Hospital renovation! How many other Charity vets feel the same?!" ❖

Viola Partaker Hondroulis: A Life of Service and Joy

Viola Partaker wanted to join the Navy, but standing in the Wisconsin recruiting station in her stocking feet, she hit a snag. "You're too short," the recruiter pointed to the mark on the measuring stick. "A half inch too short." Viola put

her hands on her hips. "Am I going to be fighting barefoot?" she demanded. She put on her shoes and cleared the regulation height – literally by a hair. The recruiter looked at the determined little woman – and signed her up.

"That was the kind of person she was," says Viola's daughter Antoinette Johnston. "Nothing could stop her."

Serving Honorably

In 1945, Viola went to Camp

Lejeune in North Carolina, then was sent to Louisiana to take basic nursing classes at LSU. She served as Lt. JG in both WWII and in the Korean War. One of her jobs in the Navy was to deliver mail to the officers, and she got the nickname "Carrier Pigeon" because she was so small and birdlike. She completed her nursing education at Charity Hospital School of Nursing, where the nickname was shortened to "Pidge." She graduated in 1951 with honors, and was inducted into the Who's Who list of Outstanding Nurses at the Smithsonian Institute. She remained in the Navy until 1954.

Viola met her husband while serving in the Korean War, and they lived in Baltimore for a time, where she worked at St. Agnes Hospital until 1958. Then they moved back to New Orleans, and she was a staff nurse at the Maison Hospitalier in the French Quarter – where she worked with one of her teachers from Charity, Patricia Rardin. "Mama was petrified of her in school," remembers Antoinette. "But they worked together at Maison and later at Baptist Hospital and they became lifelong friends." Years later, Viola was Ms. Rardin's caregiver in the months before she died.

Viola divorced her husband when she was seven months pregnant with Antoinette, and never got any child support, so she always worked two and three jobs to feed her three kids and send them to Catholic schools. She took

shifts at the Eye, Ear, Nose & Throat Hospital; Charity Hospital; Mercy Hospital and Southern Baptist Hospital. Antoinette was born at Baptist Hospital, and Viola taught at the School of Nursing there.

A Career in Industry

One of her part-time jobs was Store Nurse at the downtown Sears Roebuck on Baronne Street. She heard about an opening for a full-time position at what would be the new Oakwood Mall. She picked her way, in her white uniform, through the construction site to her job interview in a trailer. She got the job, and was the Occupational Health Manager at Sears for 28 years. She went on to create the hospitalization plan for all the Sears employees. Viola was instrumental in starting the Greater New Orleans Industrial Nurses Association, served as its President from 1974 to 1976, and implemented the Continuing Education program for Occupational Health Nursing at Delgado College.

An Industrious Volunteer

Viola volunteered regularly for the American Red Cross, assisting in relief efforts for Hurricane Camille in 1969, working the Tulane games and on Canal Street on Mardi Gras Day from 1970 to 1975 to help anyone who got injured in the festivities.

Even after she retired, Viola always stayed busy. She was a tireless volunteer for the St. Mary Magdalene Fair in West Metairie – and she was named the World Champion Shrimp Defroster! With Antoinette's help, she would thaw 250 pounds of shrimp a day, a total of 900 pounds for the jambalaya, gumbo and fried shrimp dishes served at the fair. She also worked part-time for a catering company.

Holiday Fun

Sears had a lasting impact on Viola - she loved the store decorations and collected the retired displays. Every holiday she would decorate her house in grand fashion. "For Columbus Day, she had three big sailing ships in the living room. At Christmas, it was nutcrackers," laughs Antoinette. "It looked like Macy's!" Viola also loved to costume for Mardi Gras

every year, often in outfits she made herself. In 2002, at the age of 77, she found a big Statue of Liberty mask at a Goodwill Store, dyed a sheet to wrap herself in, made a torch to carry, and walked down St. Charles Avenue getting photographed by everyone.

"We tried to throw Mama a surprise birthday party when she was 75," says Antoinette, "But she got wind of it and shut us down. So we tried again when she was 84. We figured she'd never suspect since 84 isn't a landmark birthday. It worked – and she was really surprised!" →





Antoinette Johnston holds a portrait of her mother Viola Hondroulis in Navy uniform.

Charity Memories

On December 17, 2015, at the age of 90, Viola “slid into St. Peter’s care. Literally slid, I think, because she was anointed with oil four times!” laughs Antoinette. “There is a eucharist that talks about ‘partaking’ and, at her funeral, the priest said that she was a ‘partaker of life’ – a play on her maiden name, Partaker. That was so true. She lived a great life. She was not only an interesting person, but she was interested in others, too,” says Antoinette. “She and I were joined at the hip – we did everything together. I miss her so much.”

Antoinette visited the School of Nursing to donate a collection of Viola’s nursing memorabilia to our archives. “I’m going to give all her Navy mementoes to the World War II Museum,” says Antoinette. Among the items Antoinette gave to Charity were Viola’s graduation pin, SAC pin, two nursing caps – one with her senior black stripe, ivory uniform buttons, her diploma, and her class’s “Last Will” – where she bequeathed her height to a classmate. Viola saved all the cards she got for her Charity graduation as well as alumni newsletters and correspondence, and her Commemorative Brick certificate. She also held onto the program from the September 1949 Capping Ceremony at Charity where she served as the Mistress of Ceremonies. In the program is a little prayer by Florence Westman that in a few lines seems to capture a bit of Viola’s philosophy of life: “I’ve loved it all, dear God... I loved it, and I tried to do it right.”

Another item tucked away in her papers was a yellowed handwritten prayer to Saint Catherine – perhaps given to her by a patient? At the bottom of the page, it reads: “To Miss Partaker: The most wonderful nurse I have ever met, or can ever hope to meet. God bless you.” ❖

Got Informed Consent? Thank Viola Hondroulis

Since 1975, Louisiana’s Uniform Consent Law had provided that the consent form for surgery could be a standard form, used for any procedure. Though largely

intended to basically protect a doctor from charges of battery (or a patient ‘changing his mind’ about having the procedure after the fact), the law in effect barred any claim against a doctor based on lack of informed consent if the standard form was signed.

In 1981, Viola Hondroulis was suffering from back pain, and her physician told her she needed surgery. She underwent a laminectomy that resulted in incontinence and numbness in one leg. She sued the surgeon because he had not told her there was a possibility she could lose control of her bladder as a result of the surgery.

Based on the Uniform Consent Law, the lower courts dismissed her claim but, in 1989, the Louisiana Supreme Court reversed those decisions, stating that simply presenting a patient with the same form used for every procedure did not indicate that she was adequately informed of the risks, or that she would have agreed to the procedure had she known the risk. (The court actually called it ‘absurd’ that the same language could be copied for every surgical procedure.) The Supreme Court stated that it was “the physician’s duty to disclose all known ‘material’ risks that are not obvious... allowing a reasonable person in the patient’s position to decide whether or not to proceed with the recommended treatment.”

Walking through a Mine Field

Many physicians were horrified with the court’s decision, some imagining that all consents would have to be videotaped to prove that they had presented the hundreds of possible things that could go wrong. One surgeon opined: “When a patient who is sick comes to your office, it is like someone who’s dying of thirst. She is looking to you to help her find a water hole. Now you may have to walk through a bunch of mine fields to find it, but she doesn’t want a description of the number of mines, where they stand, how you have to avoid them, or how much charge they got in them.” Doctors called it an assault on the patient-physician relationship and predicted that the decision would not be allowed to stand.

But the legislature took up the issue almost immediately and enacted amendments to the Uniform Consent Law that codified much of what was said in the Hondroulis case – that it was the doctor’s duty to provide the patient with information on risks specific to the procedure, on the likelihood of those risks, on alternative treatments, and the risks of doing nothing – and do it in language the patient can understand. An amendment also created the Louisiana Medical Disclosure Panel to prepare a list of what procedures required a consent and what risks should be disclosed for each procedure.

Thus the law in Louisiana endorses the notion that “informed consent... is based on the principle that every human being of adult years and sound mind has a right to determine what shall be done to his or her own body.”

And for that, you can thank a nurse. ❖

Old Yearbooks: You Want 'Em, We Want 'Em.

We have old yearbooks available! If you want one shipped, it's \$5 for shipping & handling. If you want to pick up, they are FREE! If you'd like to donate yours, we'll take it!

Most of the books listed below we have in large numbers, but * after the year indicates we only have two or three, so they may go fast. Please call or email the office to check availability.

Please note: If you graduated in December, your senior photo will be in the following year's yearbook.

The yearbooks available are: 1964*, 1969*, 1972*, 1973*, 1974*, 1975, 1976, 1977, 1979, 1980, 1981, 1982, 1983*, 1984*, 1987*, 1988*, 1989*, 1992*, 1993, 1994, 1996, 1997, 1998, 1999, 2000, 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004.

We Want These Years!

If, on the other hand, you would like to find a loving forever home for your yearbook, we would love to get extra copies of these yearbooks: 1938 through 1962 (especially 1951, 1952, 1956 through 1962!), 1965, 1968, 1978 and 1986. Just mail to our office: CHSN Alumni Association, Delgado Charity School of Nursing, 450 S. Claiborne Ave, New Orleans, LA 70112. Ship by "Media Mail" at the Post Office and it's pretty cheap. Or just drop off at the information desk at the school!

How to Order

If you want a yearbook shipped to you, you can order on our website: www.CharityAlumni.org. Click on the *Order Online* button and scroll down to the very bottom of the list, then click on page 3. You'll see the listing on that page.

If you want to pick one up at the information desk at the School of Nursing, there is no charge. But you have to notify us in advance! (Please do NOT just show up and ask for a yearbook. They will only be pulled out of storage when you contact us.) Please email the Alumni Office at chsnaaoffice@gmail.com or call 504-571-1395 to arrange for pick up, or to check availability on any years before you order. ❖



Reunion News

**Classes of 1977, 1978, and 1979
and friends:**

**February 9 at
Southport Hall**

200 Monticello Ave.

Jefferson, LA 70121

7 to 10 pm

\$46 per person.

Open bar, buffet and
passed hors d'oeuvres.

For more information contact

Ellen Williams Manieri at ellenmanieri@gmail.com
or 504.232.8478. Please pay by February 2.



To order your ticket, go to: www.CharityAlumni.org

In the upper right corner, click on *Order Online*.

The second item on the list is the 77/78/79 Reunion.

Click on *See Details* to purchase your ticket.

Class of 1949: Seventy Years

Please contact: Rose Jeanne Buccola
104 Burguières Lane, Destrehan, LA 70047

"To the '49ers – Class of 49, not the Gold Rush year! We're looking forward to celebrating our 70th anniversary at the April 6 Luncheon. Please write to me! I know not everyone will be able to attend but, even if you can't, please send a bio and photograph so I can assemble a class booklet for everyone. Include a current phone number, too. We want to know about your career, your hobbies, your health, your kids! I've heard from **Florence Uzee Coleman** in Mobile and **Annita Verzal McReynold** in Texas (neither will be able to make it), and a few who are planning to attend, but I want to hear from the rest of you! We are still trying to locate Carmen Harbour Albach, Sarah Robbins Austin, Agnes Courtney Franz, Margaret Conway King, Delores Vasquez Malmquist, Annie Aigner Poole, Rosemary Borne Priest, Mary Neel Starbuck Sadler and Pauline Thompson Walsh. If you can help, please let me know. I'm thinking about you - but I need to hear from you!" – Rose Jeanne Buccola '49

Class of 1969: Fifty Year Reunion

Please contact: Juanita Gauthier Deshotel
juanitagauthier@bellsouth.net

Class of 1959: Sixty Year Reunion

Please contact: Suzy Hooks Andry
susuhooks@yahoo.com



Goodbyes

Maria Garcia Roach '38: Maria Esperanza Garcia was born in 1915, in Piedras Negras, Mexico. Her father, Alberto Garcia, was a former medical missionary who



came to New Orleans to study at Tulane University School of Medicine. While in New Orleans, he performed the first open heart surgery in Louisiana at Charity Hospital, on a young black cardiac trauma patient during Mardi Gras celebrations.

Dr. Garcia and his wife settled in Austin. He was the first U.S.-trained Mexican American

physician to practice medicine in Austin. The couple was dedicated to gaining social equality and justice for Mexican Americans in Austin. They created, edited, and published the first Spanish-language newspaper in Austin, *La Vanguardia*, and helped establish labor organizations to represent Mexican laborers in the United States.

Maria attended the University of Texas at Austin, graduated from Charity Hospital School of Nursing in 1938, then trained as a nurse anesthetist at Charity Hospital in New Orleans. She taught anesthesia to medical students and physicians from the Tulane University School of Medicine. She also earned her private pilot license in 1938 at the New Orleans Municipal Airport.

At the outbreak of hostilities with the Axis powers, Maria volunteered her services to the Army Air Corps in 1942. She had initially intended to accompany Tulane's hospital unit for deployment as a field hospital, but due to her pilot training and nursing experience she was instead selected to join the fledgling Army Air Corps Medical/Air Evacuation system at Bowman Field, Kentucky, where she received her military pilot wings.

First Lieutenant Maria Garcia attended to numerous wounded soldiers during evacuation flights to the United States from the battlefields of North Africa, Asia, and Europe. She would frequently pilot some of these flights as a relief pilot, as she was qualified to fly four-engine aircraft. She subsequently became an instructor in air evacuation at Randolph Field, Texas. A decorated Army Air Corps officer, she continued serving her country with the State Department after the war.

Maria's husband, Hugh Roach, was a physics graduate and a British Foreign Service officer, district commissioner, and aide-de-camp to Governor Sir Allen Butts of the African Gold Coast. He later became the United Nations representative for Canada.

Maria created numerous scholarship funds for economically deprived and promising students at the

universities attended by herself, her late husband, and her father. She was a great supporter of our scholarship program benefiting Charity nursing students. Over a decade ago, Maria created the Hugh and Maria Garcia Scholarship Fund which funded two \$1,000 scholarships each year. Her significant donation was converted in 2016 to an endowment fund for scholarships that will continue supporting Charity nursing students indefinitely. Maria passed away in March 2018, at the age of 102.

Marie Gaudet Beaulieu '46: Marie was a native of Thibodaux and a resident of Metairie. She passed away on August 27, 2018, at the age of 91. Marie was a woman of



faith, a wonderful wife, mother, grandmother, great-grandmother, sister, and aunt. She trained as a nurse at Charity Hospital School of Nursing in the Cadet Nursing Program and worked for many years at Montelepre and Mercy Hospitals. Marie was the first female coach of a 16-year-old boy's baseball team, winning a city championship. Marie and her daughter **Kay Beaulieu**

Kenney '76 could be counted on to attend every Charity Alumni Association event. A Pin Award has been established in her memory.

Betty Mitchell Falterman '46 and Patsy Mitchell

Gordon Sanders '46: Betty Joy and Patsy Marie Mitchell were featured in an article in the *New Orleans Item* when they were born in 1926, as two of "Ten Twins Born in Seven Days in New Orleans." Seventeen years later, in May 1943, they were featured in another article with their mother, Mrs. Henry Mitchell. Mrs. Mitchell was a former nurse who decided to return to nursing when her husband joined the U.S. Army during World War II. She was taking a refresher course at Charity School of Nursing at the same time her twin daughters were student nurses. Patsy and Betty were pictured showing their mom how to take a blood pressure.



"My twin aunts Betty and Patsy were students at Charity and also in the U.S. Cadet Nurse Corps," writes Linda Mitchell. "I have another newspaper article entitled *Charity Nurse Class of 123 to Graduate*. The paper reported that the graduation ceremony at Charity was being held early, in mid-April that semester, because 110 members of the class were

were Cadets and many would be leaving before the semester ended to complete their senior training at Army hospitals. The students would not actually receive their diplomas until later that fall after they completed their training. "I have a beautiful picture of my aunts in their Cadet uniforms," says Linda. "My Aunt Patsy worked at Charity Hospital until she retired. She died of cancer in 1994. Aunt Betty passed this year, in June 2018."

Gloria Redmond Ashman '48: Gloria was born in April 1928 in Panama City, FL. She knew at age fifteen that she wanted to be a nurse and volunteered at a local hospital, learning as much as she could. "But my parents could not afford to send me to college or nursing training," recalled Gloria. "Then with World War II, there was a shortage of nurses, and the government created the Cadet Nurse Program to encourage more young women to become nurses. The program paid all the tuition and fees, plus room and board, and even a small stipend each month. I applied, was accepted, and was sent to Charity Hospital School of Nursing. This was a wonderful gift to me! It made it possible for me to become a Registered Nurse and to make a living."

After graduating in 1948, Gloria was commissioned as a Lieutenant in the U.S. Air Force. While serving she met her husband Robert who was also an officer in the Air Force. Over the course of their marriage they traveled the world and had six children. "Bob and I had a great life," she said. Gloria worked in hospitals around the world. "I have met so many wonderful people and have always been proud of being a Charity Nurse," said Gloria.

Gloria returned to Panama City and Bob passed away in 1985. She went to work at H&R Block where she recently retired after 35 years. But she always did the continuing education to keep her nursing license current.

Gloria always said that the Cadet Nurse Corps enabled her to become a nurse and she wanted to "pay it forward" by helping current students. She donated thousands of dollars to our Alumni Scholarship Fund over the years, often sending a check for \$1,000 out of the blue, with a note and sometimes a photo. "I am not rich and have to save up months to give, but I will continue as long as I can," Gloria wrote. "I try never to forget all the people who have helped me along the way. It means a lot to me to be able to contribute to the Alumni Association. I feel



that this is something that I owe – to help others get their education." The Alumni Association established the Gloria Redmond

Ashman Scholarship in the fall of 2014 to recognize her generosity.

"I really enjoy hearing from the students who are scholarship recipients and knowing that the money really helps – I only wish it was a lot more," she wrote not long ago. Her letter closed with these words: "Best wishes to you all. I won't ever forget those years. I know you all will keep on helping." Gloria passed away on June 20, 2018.

Rose Ella Chenevert Miller '58: Rose graduated from Charity Hospital School of Nursing in 1958 and spent a number of years working in the premature baby intensive care unit which at that time was a ground-breaking area of medicine. Rose worked at the Point Coupee General Hospital for some forty years, many of those spent in a supervisory position. She was instrumental in training many in the nursing profession in Pointe Coupee.



Rose was a single mother to her only child who she adopted as an infant. Though stricken with Parkinson's disease in her later years, Rose wrote and published a devotion book of short stories.

Prior to her death, Rose donated her nursing cap, cape and pin to the Alumni Association. Rose passed away in June 2018 and was buried in her nursing scrubs.

Connie Young Imhoff '65: "Connie passed away on Tuesday, November 13, 2018 from complications following surgery. I had the honor of being her friend since third grade and we were roommates for our three years of nursing school at the Big C and for numerous years after graduation until the present. She completed her BS in Allied Health from Our Lady of Holy Cross in New Orleans. Connie leaves behind three children, eight grandchildren and three great-grandchildren. Connie worked in several medical facilities and in various positions throughout her 50+ year nursing career. She remained at Charity and worked Med/Surg on 5th floor after graduating. She also worked at Methodist Hospital, Montelepre Rehabilitation Hospital, the Orleans Parish School Board for 30 years as a school nurse, and at St. Joseph and Luling Nursing Homes. She was dedicated to her profession and was a caring, compassionate nurse."

– Sandra Woessner Zeringue '65

Teresa Hebert Dias '67: "Teresa was a native and resident of Napoleonville, LA. She retired as Director of Nursing at D'ville House Nursing Home. She died of a heart attack, but had many issues from complications of childhood polio and was confined to a wheelchair. She was a friend with a great sense of humor."

– Betty Falgout Hebert '68 →

Gloria Marie Boudreaux '62: Gloria graduated from Charity in 1962 then went on to earn a Master's Degree in Nursing. She was commissioned as an Army officer and rose to the rank of Colonel. She was awarded the Meritorious Service Medal and retired after 30 years of service. Gloria taught at Texas Women's University and LSU-Eunice. She volunteered with the American Red Cross, and was named in Who's Who of Nursing. "Gloria was my 'Little Sister' at Charity," writes **Marie-Lynn Conque Martin '60.** "I've enclosed a donation in her memory to the Student Emergency Assistance Fund."



Nancy Carol Rodgers '83:

"Nancy graduated from Charity School of Nursing in the diploma program in 1983 after having raised five children. Becoming a nurse at this stage was a rebirth for her. She loved being a nurse and had worked all areas in what she described as going from the womb to the

tomb (labor and delivery, to ICU and elderly behavior health). She attempted to retire a few times, but this only lasted about a week as she just loved working as a nurse and missed being a part of that. She finally retired after more than 35 years of nursing at age 75. Within a month of retirement, she was diagnosed with a rare cancer, Angiosarcoma. She was determined to fight this awful disease and her spirits remained high, but unfortunately, less than a year later and shortly before her 76th birthday, she passed away. As a nurse myself, I was proud to walk in her footsteps. She inspired me but also so many colleagues, as well. Her co-workers and her patients just adored her, and it was her very own friends and co-workers that took care of her to the very end. This scholarship was created to not only honor my mother, Nancy Carol Rodgers, but to honor the commitment she had to the profession. We need good nurses, and we want to provide opportunity for a student pursuing a career in nursing to continue the legacy and spirit of my mom and the profession."

- Beth Butler, BSN, MS

Clinical Development Manager, Oncology, USA

Donations to the Nancy Carol Rodgers Scholarship have totaled over \$1,500, and plans are to present the first of three scholarships this fall. ❖

In Memoriam

Maria Garcia Roach '38 (3/27/18)
 Lillian Lockhart Marx '41 (12/29/14)
 Etta Lirette Lochbaum '42 (7/17/18)
 Marie Gaudet Beaulieu '46 (8/27/18)
 Betty Joy Mitchell Falterman '46 (6/27/18)
 Florence "Connie" Morel Lorino '46 (7/3/18)
 Gloria Redmond Ashman '48 (6/20/18)
 Frances Lee DeButts Hidalgo '48 (8/23/18)
 Denise Begin Gaddy '50 (6/3/17)
 Shirley Gray Knight '50 (10/26/18)
 Mary B. Rieth '51 (12/25/16)
 Anita Jeane Stewart Stentz '51 (9/11/18)
 Jacqueline Blancq Bruneau '52 (9/13/18)
 JoAnn Wingerter Kopelman '55 (8/12/18)
 Rose Ella Chenevert Miller '58 (6/2/18)
 Connie Young Imhoff '65 (11/13/18)
 Teresa Hebert Dias '67 (10/2/18)
 Sandra E. McConnell '71 (9/24/18)
 Lucille "Penny" Rutledge Nobles '72 (10/27/18)
 Michelle Dupre' Bel '82 (8/2/18)
 Nancy Carol Rodgers '83 (8/27/18)
 Susan Phillips Vicknair '84 (7/13/18)
 Jenine "Sissy" Godfrey '96 (9/2/18)
 Le'Tondra Moses Edwards '16 (10/8/18)

Faculty/Staff

Lynne Egan Bozant (6/30/18)

New Plan for Big Charity

A partnership named 1532 Tulane Partners was chosen to redevelop the old Charity Hospital with a combination of residential units, offices, research labs, shops and restaurants. The partnership was recommended by the LSU Foundation to the LSU Board of Supervisors, who must approve the proposal before it becomes official.

The 1532 Tulane partnership was chosen over another local real-estate company. The proposal anticipates that about a third of the money for the project will come from public funds, all from state and federal tax credits.

Residential Space

Questions still exist about the amount of residential units in the plan. "I think a big concern raised in both proposals was that they're both heavily residential and obviously we'd prefer to have a major anchor tenant or two from a commercial standpoint," said Louisiana's Commissioner of Administration Jay Dardenne, a

member of the selection committee. Dardenne wants to leave open the possibility of moving City Hall into the one million square-foot building. He has encouraged 1532 Tulane and the city administration to keep talking before a final plan is put in place.

“This is a building that cries out to be put back into commerce, and I think what everyone involved in this process is trying to figure out the most marketable scenario so it doesn’t sit there in perpetuity,” said Dardenne. This plan expects the hospital building redevelopment to cost about \$564 million, and estimates completion in late 2021 or early 2022.

Plans for the Neighborhood

Meanwhile, the Greater New Orleans Foundation is hoping to steer the renewal of the neighborhood surrounding Charity Hospital by preparing a strategic plan for the area. The *Spirit of Charity Innovation District* is envisioned as an economic development engine that would create jobs, offer affordable housing and provide new government office space.

The plan is to eventually create a governance structure for the district that will be able to coordinate development in the area. ❖

Charity Mementos Have New Home with Award-Winning Future Charity Nurse

Many of us alumni have collected Charity memorabilia over the years, but **William Pellegrin** has a head start, while he is still a student! William received four very special gifts from his friend Crystelle Vaughn, the daughter of **Ruth Edna Cornwell '46**: Ruth’s Charity pin, lamp, nursing cap and alumni plate. It’s no surprise to us that Crystelle wanted to hand down her mom’s beloved Charity mementos to William, because he seems like the perfect person to treasure them going forward.

Dream Delayed

Like many non-traditional Charity students, William always wanted to go to nursing school, but the dream was delayed. He joined the Navy after high school, then became an EMT. After a few years, needing to better support his family, William took a job in a friend’s business, and he says, “seventeen years passed by.” William woke up one day and knew it was time to pursue his dream. He was accepted to

Charity School of Nursing on his birthday and never looked back!

“My first semester was incredible,” says William. “I was a search and rescue swimmer and corpsman in the Navy. I was a paramedic. But nursing school is the hardest thing I’ve ever done. I was tested, poked on, and prodded, but nothing could keep me down.” At the end of it, he received a Clinical Excellence Award from the faculty and the Gloria Ashman Scholarship from the Alumni Association.

Breaking Out

He joined CASN, the student nurses association, and volunteered with a wide range of campus and community activities. He designed two t-shirts for CASN to sell as fundraisers and was elected CASN’s *Breakthrough to Nursing* coordinator, reaching out to new nursing students. He was elected as a Student Government Association senator. He ran for a state seat at the Louisiana student nurse convention, and trained as a hospice volunteer.

“Since I have been here at Charity I have had the

opportunity to meet and collaborate with so many great people,” says William.

His first experience as a hospice volunteer was very different from conventional nursing. “I washed her car, took down her Christmas decorations, put flamingos in her yard. I was there to make her life better.” The woman’s son had drowned in her pond, and she had been unable to visit the site since his death. “I took her out to the pond, and made a little garden area for her so she could go and talk to him.”

William was one of eighteen students who attended the national student nurses convention in April, became certified to administer Naloxone in emergency situations,

and even signed up to be a bone marrow donor. “I saw some amazing things there, new advances in medicine – like a biofilm being used to treat necrotizing fasciitis. I could not have had this experience without the financial help the Alumni Association provided to the CASN students who wanted to attend the conference,” says William. “I grew so much over the last semester and had an incredible ride!”

This semester William is in Level 3. He was awarded the Sister Camilla Gaudin Scholarship by the Alumni Association in September, and was elected to the Executive Board of Charity’s Student Government Association. →



At the Louisiana Association of Student Nurses Convention this fall, William received a Student Spotlight award, and he also was presented with the 2017-2018 Honorary Member of the Year Award, which is LASN's most prestigious honor.

William is already an active participant in the Alumni Association, coming to all of our events to sell CASN t-shirts because he just loves attending!

"I am proud to have gotten this far in my nursing journey and will have the chance to work in the field I love," says William. We know William will continue his extraordinary success and he will soon be an amazing Charity Nurse. And, thanks to a Charity alumni, he has already started his collection of mementos! ❖

LCTCS Awards

Two members of the CSN faculty, **Ann Burghardt-Dieck** and **Donna Bayard**, received Outstanding Professional Faculty and Staff Awards from the Louisiana Community and Technical College System this fall. The LCTCS manages all of the thirteen public two-year institutions in the state of Louisiana, including Delgado Community College. ❖

Left to right, Ann Burghardt-Dieck and Donna Bayard



Renew Your Membership!

Your membership dues help us to support the current students of Charity with everything from purchasing reference books for the library to scholarships to emergency assistance grants, plus it allows us to do other important projects like faculty development and archival preservation of our historical documents and photos. It

also helps fund our Alumni office so we can continue to publish newsletters twice a year, keep up our database, and maintain our website. All of this allows us to keep in touch with you and thousands of other Charity graduates throughout the country and around the world, and keeps the spirit of Charity alive through the many generations of alumni. All that for only \$15 in annual dues.

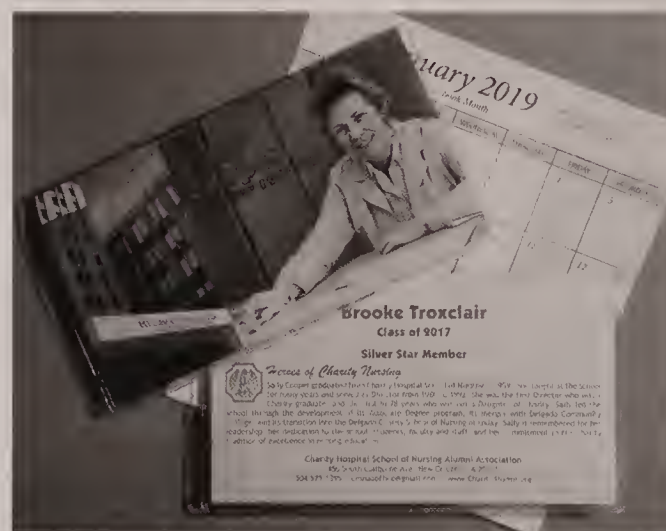
As a paid member, you are entitled to vote in elections for new Board members and officers. You receive the *White Cap* each spring, and the *Alumni News* each fall.

Renew your Alumni Association membership at the \$25 level or above and you will be listed in the 2019 *White Cap* as a "Member of Note." Plus you'll receive your choice of gifts: a 2019-20 personal pocket planner featuring Sally Cooper, Dean 1980-92, or a handy 3" x 5" Charity Alumni flip-cover notepad (with ADN students on one side and diploma students on the other), or a vintage postcard of the dorm.

Use the form on page 22, or pay securely online at our website:

www.CharityAlumni.org

*Personalized
2019-2020
pocket planner
featuring "Hero
of Charity"
Sally Cooper*



*Handy 3" x 5"
flip-top
note pad*

*Vintage postcard
of the old
Charity dorm*



And while you're there, order your Luncheon tickets! ❖

2019 Election Candidate Biographies

PRESIDENT-ELECT CANDIDATE - Unopposed



PATRICK BRADY, Class of 1983: Patrick is the current President of the Alumni Association, having served on the Board of Directors and Advisory Committee in previous years. He earned a BSN from Loyola University, a MSN from William Carey College on the Coast, a Doctorate in Nursing Practice in 2010 from the University of South Alabama, and a PhD in Nursing Education in 2018 from William Carey University. As a Sigma Theta Tau member, he served as President of the Upsilon Theta Chapter from 2009 to 2011 and now serves as the Faculty Counselor. Patrick is currently an Associate Professor of Nursing, director of the RN-BSN, RN-MSN, MSN and MSN/MBA programs and Quality and Compliance. He has been an active CHSNAA member since graduating in 1983 and resides in Slidell, Louisiana.

TREASURER CANDIDATE - Unopposed



URSULA ALLAIN, Class of 1965: Ursula worked full-time for 30 years at Charity Hospital, mostly in the OR, then part-time for another ten years as a Patient Liaison in the Emergency Room. Though retired, she is an active member in the New Orleans Chapter of AORN. Ursula has served CHSNAA as President, Board Member, on the Nominating Committee, and as Treasurer for many years. Ursula also serves as chairman of the Alumni Association's Scholarship Committee which interviews over two dozen student applicants each semester. Ursula lives in Kenner, Louisiana.

NOMINATIONS CHAIR CANDIDATE - Unopposed



EMILY OVALLE, Class of 2013: As a student, Emily was the Student Government President. "I enjoyed working with my fellow classmates and the faculty of CSN towards common goals to improve life on campus." She was awarded the Mary Ann Signorelli Whynot Scholarship in 2014. Since graduation, she has remained active as a member of the Advisory Committee of the Alumni Association and served as Nominations Chair for the last two years. She is currently working as a Case Manager at Ochsner Baptist "I have great organizational skills. I enjoy creative projects, volunteering in the community and bringing people together. I am honored to work with the Alumni and happy to help this organization in any way." Emily lives in Marrero, Louisiana.

BOARD MEMBER CANDIDATES - Two positions - Unopposed



CHARLENE BERGER, Class of 1979: Charlene began her career as an Oncology Nurse at Tulane Medical School from 1980 to 1989. Then she became the Research Director of a Private Research Center for four years. She recently retired from the Pharmaceutical Research area after 25 years as Site Manager of Clinical Research sites throughout the US. Working in many different therapeutic areas has broadened Charlene's nursing experience but Oncology and Rheumatology have always been her foremost interests. Charlene was on the Alumni Association Advisory Committee for two years and has served on the Board of Directors for four years. She is a very active volunteer for the Susan G. Komen Foundation. Charlene lives in Kenner, Louisiana.



AMBER STOKES, Class of 2013: Amber is training to be a Peritoneal Dialysis nurse at Fresenius as well as working PRN in the ER at Ochsner St. Bernard. She was the SGA Vice-President for her class while at Charity as well as the Community Service Coordinator for the Charity Association of Student Nurses (CASN). Amber was the recipient of the Marcelle Jacobs Wright Scholarship while in school and received the Margaret Palmisano Pin Award at graduation. Amber is a strong believer in community service and has been involved in numerous activities with the Second Harvest Food Bank, the New Orleans Medical Mission, and aid to flood victims. Currently she is involved in fostering animals in need through the LASPCA and Take Paws animal rescue. Amber lives in New Orleans. ❖

2019 ELECTIONS BALLOT

DIRECTIONS: Circle the names of the candidates of your choice. Cut out the ballot, fold and mail. You can include in the same envelope with other items.

PRESIDENT-ELECT CANDIDATE
PATRICK BRADY '83

TREASURER - **URSULA ALLAIN '65**

NOMINATIONS CHAIR - **EMILY OVALLE '13**

BOARD MEMBERS - Two Positions

CHARLENE BERGER '79

AMBER STOKES '13

INSTRUCTIONS FOR VOTING

Candidate bios are on page 21. Circle your selections on the Ballot at left, cut it out along the dotted lines, and fold it in half to protect the privacy of your vote. Place it in an envelope and mail to the CHSN Alumni Association. You may include the membership form and luncheon reservation in the same mailing envelope. Your Ballot will be placed in a secure ballot box immediately upon receipt.

Ballots must be received in the Alumni Office no later than January 31, 2019, to be counted.

CHECK YOUR MAILING LABEL

Only current members are eligible to vote. Check your mailing label for your membership status. The four-digit number adjacent to your name on your mailing label indicates the year your membership expires. If you see "2018" beside your name, it means your membership expires at the end of 2018. You can vote in this election, but may want to consider renewing your membership now for 2019.

If your label has a "0" or a year earlier than 2018, you are overdue to pay your membership, and you should send a check along with your ballot.

If the number on your label is 2019 or greater, or if it is 9999, 8888 or 7777 (special membership categories like Lifetime or Sustaining), then you do NOT need to renew your membership and you can go ahead and vote. ❖

Check one:

- ☐ I am current on my membership dues.
- ☐ I am renewing my membership today.

Mail your ballot to: **CHSN Alumni Association**,
Delgado Charity School of Nursing
450 South Claiborne Ave, New Orleans, LA 70112

CHSNAA MEMBERSHIP FORM

Check your mailing label for the year your membership expires. Use this form to renew, or to make a donation.

PLEASE WRITE CLEARLY!

Class of: _____

Name _____
First name Maiden/graduating name Last name

Address: _____
Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Cell Home

Email: _____

I Want to Contribute to:

Alumni Scholarship Fund.....\$ _____
CASN Convention Travel Fund.....\$ _____
Student Emergency Assistance Fund.....\$ _____
Art & Archives Preservation Fund.....\$ _____
Other: _____ \$ _____

Annual Membership Dues:

- ☐ \$15 Regular Membership
- ☐ \$25 Blue Ribbon Member*
- ☐ \$50 Silver Star Member*
- ☐ \$100 Sr. Stanislaus Member*
- ☐ Sustaining Member: a one-time gift of \$500
(and never pay dues again).*

*Members at these levels, please select your choice of:

- ☐ Personalized 2019-20 Alumni pocket calendar
- ☐ Alumni notepad
- ☐ Vintage postcard of the old Charity Dorm
- ☐ No gift, please.

Mail to: **CHSN Alumni Association**
Delgado Charity School of Nursing
450 South Claiborne Ave, New Orleans, LA 70112.

You can write one check for your membership dues, donations, and your Spring Luncheon ticket. You can mail your ballot in the same envelope as well. You can also do everything (except vote) online at

www.CharityAlumni.org

Charity is My Super Power!

Spring Alumni Luncheon

Saturday, April 6

Hilton New Orleans Airport
901 Airline Highway FREE PARKING!
Registration & Cash Bar open at 10:30am;
Lunch served at 11:30am

*Charity taught us to think - and think outside the box.
We learned to be rigorous - and to improvise.
Whatever it takes, we make things happen.
Charity Nurses are 'can do' nurses and our
Charity training is our secret super power!
Join us for a celebration of Charity Nursing
and the lasting friendships we made at Charity!*

Savor your choice of two delicious entrees:
Bronzed Catch of the Day topped with
Shrimp Regency Sauce, or
Chicken Breast Poydras with
Brandied Mushroom Artichoke Cream Sauce,
Plus salad, sides, coffee and
New Orleans Bread Pudding for dessert.
Cash Bar.

Use this form, and make checks payable to:
CHSN Alumni Association
or order your tickets at our website:
www.CharityAlumni.org

The \$40 ticket price covers only the cost of your meal.
If you value receiving our newsletters, or any of the
other work of the Alumni Association, please consider
paying membership dues or making donations to one
of our many projects to benefit the School of Nursing
You can write one check for everything.
Use the form on page 22 or visit our website.



2019 Spring Alumni Luncheon Reservation Form

Mail to:

CHSN Alumni Association, Delgado Charity School of Nursing,
450 S. Claiborne Ave, New Orleans, LA 70112

Or purchase tickets online at **www.CharityAlumni.org**

We must receive your payment by March 29, 2019,
to guarantee your seating!

PLEASE WRITE CLEARLY!

Name _____
First name Maiden/graduating name (if applicable) Last name

Class of: _____ Phone: _____ Cell Home

Address: _____

Zip: _____

Email: _____

Total number of people _____ @ \$40 each.....\$_____

Choose your entree:

___ Chicken Breast Poydras or ___ Catch of the Day

Bringing a Guest? Please give us the name for their Name Tag:

Charity Hospital School of Nursing ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

Delgado Charity School of Nursing
450 South Claiborne Avenue
New Orleans, Louisiana 70112

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

What is that number by my name?

The four-digit number adjacent to your name on your mailing label indicates the year your membership expires. For example, "2018" next to your name means your membership expires at the end of 2018. You are current, but you may want to consider renewing your membership now for 2019.

If your label has a "0" or a year earlier than 2018 (such as "2015"), you are overdue! Please join or renew your membership now.

If the numbers on your label are 9999, 8888 or 7777, you are in a special membership category (Lifetime, Sustaining) and you do NOT need to renew your membership.

To renew your membership, use the form on page 22, or go online to:

www.CharityAlumni.org

Mark your calendar for the
Spring Alumni Luncheon

April 6, 2019



Cut out the box below and put on your bulletin board or refrigerator. You'll always be able to find the information you need to keep in touch!



Charity Hospital School of Nursing Alumni Association

Delgado Charity School of Nursing
450 South Claiborne Ave.
New Orleans, LA 70112
504-571-1395

Email: **chsnaaoffice@gmail.com**

Website: **www.CharityAlumni.org**

Facebook: **Charity Alumni NOLA**

Photo Share Site:

<https://charityalumni.shutterfly.com/>

THE WHITE CAP



A Publication of the Alumni Association of
Charity Hospital School of Nursing and Delgado Charity School of Nursing

Volume 51 Summer 2019



From the President

By Patrick Brady '83

I'm sure each president has their goals for the Alumni Association during their tenure. One common question faced by each president is "Are we doing enough for our members?" I often consider the sustainability of our organization. What will the membership be like down the road? Who will be our leaders? Sometimes I think to myself "Well, we've been around for a long time." While this may be true, I want the Alumni Association to be around forever!

While we have many, very committed members from the 40s, 50s and 60s, there has been something of a gap in enthusiasm about the Alumni Association over several decades for classes from the late 70s through the 90s. Perhaps it's because there were many transitions in that era. Some students attended UNO for part of their classwork, changes at Charity Hospital and development of the Associate Degree program sent students to hospitals around the metropolitan area for their clinicals. The traditional ties created by the dorm and clinicals at the same hospital no longer held us.

But we are starting to see more interest. I was delighted to have a big group of my 1983 classmates attend the Breakfast this last September. And **Ellen Manieri '77** organized a three-class reunion in February for 1977-78-79 that was a huge success, with over 80 alumni in attendance! We need these classes to step up and become active members – to keep the Alumni Association strong, and to maintain our programs that assist the school and current students. And **Linda**



Catherine LaFleur St. Cyr '59, Joshua Bourgeois '18, and Lillian Samardzija '60 at the Spring Luncheon.

Grant MacLachlan '78 wrote out a check for \$1,000 for scholarships at the Spring Luncheon!

As for more recent graduates, I realize that the times have changed the nursing school experience profoundly. Many current students face challenges that we never did in school. Caring for children *and* aging parents, working multiple jobs to pay tuition on top of supporting families, and military deployments to name only a few. As our new graduates are starting out in their professional careers, it is understandable that being active in the Alumni Association probably isn't a priority for many.

This is part of why we have forged such a strong connection with CASN, the Charity Association of

Student Nurses. Their president attends our Board Meetings to let us →



Left to right: Dean Cheryl Myers with Tiffany Manno '13 as she presents a check from River Oaks Hospital for scholarships to President Patrick Brady '83.

know what they are doing and how we can help – such as assisting with travel expenses for Convention. CASN Members attend our Alumni events to sell t-shirts. They are always so delighted to meet members from so many generations of nursing, and we value the opportunity to get to know current students! We have also invited the officers of the Student Government Association and Spectrum to attend our meetings as well.

These students have already learned how enriching it is to be involved with their peers beyond classwork and clinicals. That the Spirit of Charity is not in the piece of paper you receive at the end, but the journey you share on the way. They will be the future leaders of our profession – and, we hope, the future leaders of our Alumni Association!

So I guess the question “Are we doing enough for our members?” is a multi-pronged one. What can we do to connect with more alumni over all the generations? How can the Alumni Association’s mission resonate with past and future graduates? How can our organization be more meaningful to every Charity alumni?

We embrace the rich and inspiring history of our school. I want us to embrace our future just as warmly. I want the Alumni Association to be a vital and engaging continuation of the Charity experience for all our graduates.

Exploring these questions is my goal as your President. I want your help. If you can think of ways that we can better serve our members and foster our graduates’ love for the Alumni Association, please let me know.

Lunch and a New Scholarship

Our Spring Luncheon at the Hilton Airport Hotel was again a huge success! One notable highlight of the luncheon was the generous donation of a scholarship from River Oaks Hospital, presented to the Alumni by our own **Tiffany Manno ’13**. This scholarship, which will be provided over every fall and spring semester, hopes to encourage knowledge about psychiatric and mental disorders across healthcare. Tiffany, the director of Risk Management at River Oaks, was the driving force behind this gift. We appreciate such a generous opportunity for our students – and it happened because of one of our alumni!

A Nod to NODNA

On May 11, a group of us alumni were fortunate enough to attend the New Orleans District Nurses Association (NODNA) Celebration of Nursing Excellence breakfast. We have strong associations with NODNA, with past-president **Patrick Reed ’90** and current president **Ecoee Rooney ’99** both being Charity graduates. Nurses and students were honored for their contributions to the profession and to patient care. Several Charity alumni and students received recognition!

Shalan Randolph ’02 received the NODNA



Ursula Allain ’65, Ecoee Rooney ’99, and Sharon Burel ’80 at the NODNA Nursing in Excellence breakfast.

Excellence in Nursing award for Direct Patient Care in Ambulatory, APRN; **Darrell J. Price ’92** received the NODNA Excellence in Nursing award for Direct Patient Care in Hospital In-Patient, APRN; **Mary Kelly ’91** received the NODNA Excellence in Nursing award for Beyond the Bedside for Nursing Leadership for a Nurse Executive. Charity students **Brandi Borden**, **Erez Martin** and **William Mark Pellegrin** received NODNA Rising Star Scholarships of \$500. We are so proud of you all!

Homecoming Plans Coming Soon!

Homecoming 2020 is not too far off and plans are in the works! For those of you who haven’t heard of it, Homecoming is a celebration we hold every five years. It happens over a weekend in the fall, with three official events: a Saturday morning of activities at the school, a Saturday evening get-together, and a Sunday brunch. It’s an amazing amount of fun as over 300 alumni gather to party and remember our school days!

Homecoming 2020 is scheduled for October 17 and 18, 2020. So mark your calendars! More details will be in the *Alumni News* this fall, and in the 2020 *White Cap* in the spring. I’m sure you will all be pleased with the activities we are planning, so stay tuned! This is a good time to contact your classmates to organize reunions and also to find “missing” classmates. The Alumni office can assist you with names and addresses, and we would really appreciate information about classmates you may find that are not in our data base.

Fall is for Breakfast

In our excitement about Homecoming, we don’t want to forget the Fall Breakfast! Especially since, because of the expanded logistics required for Homecoming, there will NOT be a Spring 2020 Alumni Luncheon. So this breakfast is your last chance to join with your classmates for a year! Don’t wait! Get on the phone, rally the gang, and order your tickets today! ❖

Marvels & Wonders!

By Joycelyn Jeansonne '78

It was a beautiful April morning at the elegant Hilton Hotel in Kenner. Few would have remarked at the gathering of so many generations of nurses, except perhaps for the occasional glimpse of a bit of shimmer.... Only among ourselves did we flash our golden bracelets, reveal our S-emblazoned chests, flex our nerves of steel and acknowledge the secret: "Charity is Our Super Power!"

It was a *Marvel* of a party, as the Wonder Women and Super Men in attendance enjoyed a delicious lunch, renewed old friendships and pondered the heroics of nursing careers with fellow graduates, old and new!

President **Patrick Brady '83** welcomed the alumni and their guests and **Jenn Garnand '11** gave the blessing – aiming true, as always, and hitting us square in our hearts. (You can read Jenn's blessing on page 6.)

CSN Report

Dr. Cheryl Myers, Executive Dean of the School of Nursing, began by thanking us for inviting her to speak at the luncheon. She pointed out to the students present that there is clearly life after nursing school and recognized the recent graduates in attendance.

The enrollment at school is still booming with 680 RN students and 120 LPN students. Approximately 170 will be admitted for the fall semester.

The faculty and staff continue to work with architects to design a state-of-the-art facility that will house the School of Nursing and all of Delgado's allied health programs in the former LSU Medical School building on Tulane Avenue next to Charity Hospital, with a projected completion date of 2021.

Special Guest

Patrick introduced **Tiffany Manno**, a 2013 Charity graduate who is now Director of Risk Management and Performance Improvement at River Oaks Hospital.



Left to right, top to bottom: Trisha Talboys '18, Shelley Blanda '18; Ursula Allain '65, Dr. Cheryl Myers; Ginger Andry '58; Joyce Kelly, Mary Singletary and Rose Jeanne Buccola, Class of '49, celebrate 70 years.

Tiffany presented a "Big Check" to the Alumni

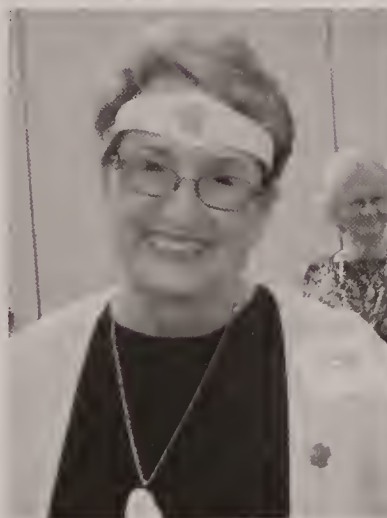
Association for scholarships for Charity nursing students.

The check represents River Oaks Hospital's commitment to provide a \$1,000 scholarship every fall and spring semester to encourage nursing students to further their knowledge of psychiatric illness and treatments because psychiatric patients are seen at all levels of care.

Tiffany orchestrated the donation by River Oaks because of the difference it made in her life to

receive the Sally Cooper Alumni Scholarship while she was a student. Tiffany spoke eloquently about how the scholarship "is a big reason I am where I am today." (You can read Tiffany's remarks on page 6.) Tiffany is a Charity Super Hero for sure!

Many recipients of alumni scholarships from this semester were in attendance – scholarships all made possible by donations from alumni, family and friends. →





Election Results

These newly elected officers were administered their oath of office: Treasurer **Ursula Allain '65**, Nominating Chair **Emily Ovalle '13**, and Board Members **Charlene Berger '79** and **Amber Stokes '13**.

Continuing in their current positions are: Secretary **Joycelyn Jeansonne '78**, Board Members **Vivian Manes '70**, **Patrick Reed '90**, and **Brooke Troxclair '17**, and President-Emeritus **Bryan Camus '12**.

Patrick Brady was uncontested in his position as President and is proud to serve in that role until Spring 2022.

Roll Call

Patrick and Joycelyn conducted the roll call of classes. Three members of the **Class of '49** were there to receive their Platinum Certificates for their 70th Anniversary: **Rose Jeanne Roussel Buccola**, **Mary Smith Singletary** and **Joyce DeLatte Kelly**.

Patricia Flynn Parr '95 sent a photo of her mom, **Joyce Picou Flynn '49**, and a copy of *The White Cap* from 1996, with a picture of Patricia and Joyce attending an alumni event together that spring. Joyce passed away in 2009. "I would have loved to bring her to this Class of '49 reunion," wrote Patricia.

The **Class of '59** held their 60-Year reunion and had ten classmates in attendance to receive their Diamond Certificates. And the **Class of 2018** had a great showing with seven new graduates! We also welcomed nine current students - and even one student-to-be! **Sadie Peters** was just accepted to the School of Nursing, and she came with her friend **Donna Apperson '02**.



Top to bottom, left to right: the Class of 1959; Jo Ann Toval '80 and Judy Ross '68; Charlotte Arras '71 and Jo Ann Rizzuto '71; Kimberly North '94 and daughter Ashley Davidson, a current student; Patrick Brady '83, Roberta Bartee '66 and Bryan Camus '12; Sadie Peters and Donna Apperson '02.

The **Class of 1969** is planning their 50th reunion for the fall, so we hope to see many of them at the Ridgeway on September 28. We were happy to at least see **Julia George '69** this spring. It was her lucky day – she won the raffle for a Pelican Trinket Box!

Drawings & Surprises

The winner of the 50/50 drawing was **Jo Ann Toval '80**, collecting \$182! The CHSN Cape raffle donated by **Joy Weber Gregersen '50** was won by **Kimberly North '94**. **Mary Singletary '49** won the raffle for the Charity Pin Cross-Stitch which was artfully stitched and donated by the amazing **Kathy Hug '65**.

The door prizes were extra exciting because **Peggy Johns '63** donated a whole bunch of wonderful scarves she had knitted and cute quilted “microwave bowls” (you can put your soup bowl inside to microwave and when you take it out, you don’t burn your fingers). She also embroidered hand towels with the words “Charity is My Super Power!”

Many of the CASN students were at the national convention that day, but the SGA and other student volunteers pitched in to run the CASN table so we could choose from their extensive selection of great Charity t-shirts.

Some alumni surprised us with gifts! **Joyce DeLatte Kelly '49** was accompanied by her daughter Maureen Kelly and graciously brought her cape to donate. **Catherine LaFleur St. Cyr '59** brought us a class photo dated 1946 of her sister’s class (**Anna Belle LaFleur Simoneaux '47** passed away in 1997). Catherine was delighted to recognize **Mary Singletary '49**, one of her sister’s friends! **Lorre Lei Jackson '58** still has her scrapbook from nursing school and found in it a copy of the speech given by a recent graduate, **Mary Ellyn Chadwick '53**, at their Capping Ceremony in May 1956. “It’s just as relevant today!” says Lorre Lei. (See what you think! Read Mary Elln’s address on page 14.)

See Ya’ll in the Fall

Patrick thanked everyone for attending, and wished them safe travels home. **Cindy Beniger '68** led us in singing the Alma Mater, and as the last bars faded away, we slipped quietly back into the guises of our normal lives. But we are always at the ready to return when the Big “C” appears in the sky – or when the next alumni event beckons!



Top to bottom, left to right: Evelyn Schroeder '58, Maureen McDonald '62, Lorre Lei Jackson '58, Peggy Johns '63 and Anne Daigle '58; Angele Rains '18, senior Mira Bull, Karen Bonilla-Zeladon '18 and senior Amanda Weinberger; Joycelyn Jeansonne '78 and Carol Gonzales '80; Mary Jo Johnson and Mary Jean Johnson Southerland, Class of '74; Cindy Beniger '68 leads the Alma Mater.

River Oaks Hospital Provides Scholarships

By Tiffany Manno '13

Director of Risk Management, River Oaks Hospital

At the Spring Luncheon, Tiffany presented a check from River Oaks Hospital to the Alumni Association for scholarships for students at Charity School of Nursing. The check represents River Oaks Hospital's commitment to provide a \$1,000 scholarship every fall and spring semester to encourage nursing students to further their knowledge of psychiatric illness and treatments because psychiatric patients are seen at all levels of care. These were Tiffany's remarks at the Luncheon.

Charity is my Super Power. My experience at Charity School of Nursing has given me the power of UPLIFT.

Whether I was walking down the halls, studying in the library, caring for my patients and their family in clinicals, or volunteering at Habitat for Humanity with my classmates, there was always someone there to say *I believe in you*.

From faculty and staff, peers, family and friends - there was always *You've got this*. That's what I heard when I volunteered to take a gunshot victim as my first clinical patient assignment. That is what I heard when I was up all night preparing a detailed patient care plan for clinicals the next day. That is what I heard from the Librarian when I was studying for hours on end in the Charity library to prepare for the world of nursing ahead. *You've got this*.

In my turn, as a tutor to my peers in nursing school, I would give them a resounding *You've got this*. And now, in my position as the Director of Risk Management and Performance Improvement, I am still saying *You've got this*. We're going to make things better together and ensure that we deliver the best patient care possible.

We are the sum of each other's success. When I received the 2013 Sally Cooper Alumni Scholarship, it made all of the difference for me. You, the alumni, were there to say *I believe in you*. I want to thank you all. I am here today because of you.

In continuing with the Spirit of Charity, I am so honored to announce the River Oaks Hospital Psychiatric Scholarship on behalf of our CEO Deagan Watson and my colleagues, to the Charity School of Nursing. This is a \$1,000 Scholarship which will be offered in the Spring and Fall semesters.

This scholarship is meant to uplift a student's spirit as my spirit was uplifted when I received the Sally Cooper Scholarship. As a Behavioral Health Hospital, we hope to raise awareness of Psychiatric - Mental Health Nursing, promote mental health, and break down The Walls of Stigma surrounding mental illness.

We are proud to have this opportunity to give back to our Nursing Community which gives so much, not only to our hospital and patients it serves, but to our community as a whole, everyday. Thank you! ❖

Blessing for Spring Luncheon 2019

By Jenn Garnand '11

We bless this food that we are about to share and the company in which we share it. Let us begin our time together today in the spirit of Charity....

Christopher Reeves has said, "A **hero** is an ordinary individual who finds the strength to **persevere** and **endure** in spite of overwhelming obstacles."

In our case, this *hero* is a **NURSE**.

Myrtle Aydelotte said that "Nurses encompass an *art*, a humanistic orientation, a *feeling* for the **value** of the individual, an *intuitive* sense of **ethics**, and the appropriateness of *action* taken."

Who inspires one to be a nurse? Every nurse who's ever come before us who hasn't turned their back on a nursing student or graduate nurse, every nurse who has acknowledged that it's okay and simply **human** to make foolish mistakes, every nurse who has taken a moment of their time to help when you've been scared, and every nurse who continues to remember *what it's like* to be a beginner.

Nurses UNDERSTAND, plan, encourage, SUPPORT... Nurses wipe tears, refer, bandage, assess, COUNSEL... Nurses organize, teach, HEAL, laugh, LISTEN... Nurses comfort, hold your hand, respond, monitor, CARE –

And what is this superpower they possess? Well, we don't have to engage in *grand, heroic actions* to participate in the process of change. **Small acts**, when multiplied, are the ones that **transform** others, often ourselves, and *sometimes even the world*.

In our case, this superpower is **CHARITY**. Charity is to give of *yourself*, without regret... and without reward.

However, Charity is not a duty, but a JOY. It's the voice of the most vulnerable. *The voice of the voiceless*. Charity is when we see the **need**, not necessarily focus on the cause. Charity is having done something for someone who can *never repay you*.

Oftentimes, it's an action, but most importantly, it's a state of the HEART.

Charity is expecting the best of each other.

Charity is pure **LOVE**.

And LOVE is crucial here... Because if **love** can't cure it – **NURSES CAN**.

Amen. ❖

February 2019 Reunion Reunites Three Classes

The Charity **Classes of 1977, 1978 and 1979** held their combined Forty-Year Anniversary Reunion in February at Southport Hall in Jefferson, LA. The reunion was organized by **Ellen Williams Manieri '77** and over eighty graduates from the three classes attended. There was music, an open bar and a buffet.

Because of the structure of the curriculum at that time, the three groups often had classes together, "so it seemed appropriate to reunite all the old friends," said Ellen. ❖

*Thanks to **Mike McCall '77** for the class photos, from top to bottom: 1977, 1978, 1979.*



Pinning Ceremonies and Graduation Awards

Congratulations to all of the seniors from Fall 2018 and Spring 2019 who have joined our ranks as nurses and alumni! We especially want to recognize the recipients of these graduation awards:

Class of May 2019

(Pictured to right, left to right, top to bottom)

Joshua Heigle, Honor Pin

William Pellegrin, Award of Distinction
(pictured with Dr. Cheryl Myers)

Brandi Borden, Margaret Palmisano Alumni Award, and NODNA Leadership Award *(presented by NODNA President Ecoee Rooney '99)*

Ahoefa Agbobli, Sister Blanche McDonnell Award

Mira Bull, Sister Stanislaus Malone Award

Bridget Breaux, Highest GPA



Class of December 2018

(Pictured to left, left to right, top to bottom)

Angele Rains, Honor Pin, Highest GPA and SAC Award *(pictured with Deborah Skevington '79 and Dr. Cheryl Myers)*

Karen Bonilla, Sister Blanche McDonnell Award and NODNA Award

(presented by Bryan Camus '12)

Shelley Blanda, Sister Stanislaus Malone Award and CASN Award

Laura Gamber, Award of Distinction

Trisha Talboys, Margaret Palmisano Alumni Award

(Not pictured): Jessica Ackerman, Spectrum Award

The Theresa Bittenbring and John Henry Marque Fund Student Nurse Awards are given to the students with the top five highest GPA's for the academic year.

For 2018-2019, the recipients are: **Bridget Breaux** and

Joshua Heigle of May 2019; **Angele Rains**, **Rachel Wolf** and **Zachary Kirwood** of December 2018.



Dean's Report

By Cheryl Myers, PhD, RN

Executive Director CSN Campus/Dean of Nursing

It is a pleasure to bring you summer greetings! As we close the 2018-19 academic year, I'd like to update you on some of the accomplishments of our students and upcoming news that we are excited about.

First, our students/graduates! We continue to be proud of the time and effort each of our students puts into meeting the rigor of the nursing program. Now, more than ever, the complexity of patient care is increasing, which requires an increase in the level of sophistication in the teaching and testing environment of the program. Our faculty continue to work hard to assist students to meet the challenge of nursing in the increasingly demanding world of healthcare. We are pleased that the past two graduating classes did exceptionally well on the NCLEX: May 2018 earned a 96.39% pass rate and the class of December 2018 earned a 97.94% rate!

Thanks to your support, members of CASN were able to attend the spring 2019 NSNA conference in Salt Lake City. When they returned, we were able to witness the growth and continued socialization into the profession. As one student stated, she was able to see how nurses can truly make a difference in healthcare.

As of July 1, we will welcome our new Chancellor, Dr. Larissa Littleton-Steib. Dr. Steib has served at Delgado in the past as the Executive Dean of the West Bank Campus and the Vice Chancellor for Workforce Development. She left Delgado to serve as the Chancellor at Baton Rouge Community College, and we are pleased to have her return to her home. I'm sure you will meet her at one of the upcoming alumni events.

The plans for the renovation of the LSU Medical School building at 1542 Tulane Avenue are progressing. We are excited for construction to begin sometime in the next academic year, with a planned move of the nursing and allied health programs likely in 2021.

Thanks to the generous donations from the alumni, over \$8,800 in awards/scholarships were distributed to students at the spring 2019 Promotion and Awards Ceremony. Without your support, many of our students would not be able to achieve their goal of becoming a Charity nurse. We truly appreciate each and every one of you for the time, talent, encouragement and other support you provide for our students and the program. Wishing you a safe and restful summer! ❖

Farewell to LOADN

The Louisiana Chapter of OADN-LOADN, the Louisiana Organization for Associate Degree Nursing, is disbanding

due to waning participation. The members voted to keep a portion of the group's remaining funds in Louisiana (the balance will go to the OADN Foundation). Each nursing program that held an OADN agency membership was provided a check for \$500 to be used for student scholarships.

The Charity Alumni Association will administer the gift as part of their scholarship program, and we anticipate awarding the LOADN Scholarship to a student in Spring 2020. It is an unfortunate loss of an important advocate for the Associate Degree in Nursing in the state.

CSN Faculty member Barbara Hebert is the treasurer of LOADN. CSN Faculty member Pat Smart, past-president of LOADN, continues as current treasurer of OADN. ❖

Charity Yearbooks Online

Soon it will be as simple as going online when you want to see your yearbook! We are in the process of archiving all the School of Nursing yearbooks at **Internet Archive**, a non-profit library of books and historical material from libraries and other institutions all over the country. You can use it free!



It's easy to find your yearbook.

There is a link to the Internet Archive site on our website, **CharityAlumni.org** on the **FAQs and Links** page.

Or, on your web search engine, type in:

Internet Archive (No "s" on the end!)

When that comes up, on the SEARCH ARCHIVES bar type in: **Charity Hospital School of Nursing Alumni Association** (Type the whole thing to avoid getting a bunch of other stuff.)

Our yearbooks will pop up! (Put it in your Bookmarks!) There is a "SORT BY" bar, and just click on "TITLE" to get them in order by year. Then click on the year you want. You can flip through your yearbook page by page, zoom in, even download!

We are still in the process of scanning all the yearbooks, so it is not yet a complete collection, but we hope to be finished by the end of the year. As of this writing, the collection includes 1938 through 1959, and 1991 through 2004. If your yearbook isn't there yet, just check back later. Ultimately we hope to add other historical School of Nursing documents as well. Even if your year isn't listed yet, it's really fun to look through the other books!

Another neat thing to do in the Internet Archive is to search for "Charity Hospital Report." These are the Big Charity Hospital's annual reports to the State of Louisiana going back to 1842! Some are even in French! Very cool! ❖

Igniting Passions

By Brandi Borden, May 2019

Outgoing CASN President

In April 2019, ten students from the Charity Association of Student Nurses (CASN) attended the 67th Annual National Student Nursing Association (NSNA) Convention, which was held in Salt Lake City, Utah. The

theme was *Ignite Your Passion: Lighting the Way for Excellence!* and attending this convention helped ignite our passion for nursing. For some of us, this was our first time at a nursing convention and anticipated with excitement what we would be doing. For others, we had been to several conventions and knew what to expect and what we wanted to accomplish.

Throughout the convention, we networked with leaders, speakers, faculty, and thousands of fellow student nurses.

Dr. Rumay Alexander delivered an amazing Keynote Address at the Opening Ceremony and set the tone for a great convention. The Endnote Address was given by Alexandra Wubbles, a Critical Care nurse in the Burn Trauma ICU, who was wrongfully arrested while advocating for her patient in 2017. These nurses are leaders and had inspirational stories to share.

Johnson & Johnson sponsored two Plenary Sessions. At the *What Would a Nurse Do?* Plenary Session, we learned how three nurses changed healthcare by rising to the challenges of being a nurse and advocating for patients and healthcare. During the *Trending: Healthcare Everywhere* Plenary Session, we caught a glimpse of the future with technological advancements within healthcare. As Charity student **Gina Galliano** said, "It was inspiring to hear the RNs speak with such passion about their careers. This event certainly cemented nursing as my future."

The focus sessions covered seminars, workshops, and presentations. Some focus sessions shared study tips while others presented information about different types of nursing specialties, various skills, or issues we may face as nurses. **William Pellegrin** said, "I attended the focus session *The Whole Truth: You Have the Power to Stop Human Trafficking* and was alarmed and shocked at the

statistics and how easy it was to fall victim to this. I learned how to spot signs and how to help the victims by educating them as well."

Matt Kiefer enjoyed several focus sessions, but one stood out for him. He reports, "I was inspired after talking to Andrew Vietch, a flight nurse from Africa who currently teaches at Stanford in California along with Josh Wall, President Elect of the Air and Surface Transport Nurses Association. Both men are part of ASTNA and explained



Above, left to right: CASN members Matt Kiefer, William Pellegrin, Brandyn Filerman, Kokoro Schwartz,, Kasey Hall, Laurie Siekkinen, Brandi Borden, Angela Adams, Gina Galliano and Doreall Jupiter at Convention.

why flight nursing is one of the most rewarding jobs and at the same time why it isn't for everyone." He adds, "They each took the time to answer my questions and explained the benefits, the reasons to volunteer for extra shifts, and the importance of being certified in critical care. Being certified is a mark of a professional, it makes you more conscious, you can practice at a higher level, and you take the job more seriously."

While in the House of Delegates, we listened to student nurses who presented their resolutions. Those who have never been to a Resolutions Hearing may not be aware of the influence and magnitude we have to create change within our chosen profession. It takes time to research whether or not a particular issue is needed within the healthcare setting, analyze the pros and cons, write it in the proper format, and present it to thousands of nursing students who will be voting for or against the topic at hand. As **Laurie Siekkinen** says, "It was amazing to see that we as nursing students have a voice and how our voices can

bring change to the nursing profession and care we provide our patients.”

At NSNA’s First Night Party, we all got on the dance floor and danced the night away. No matter if we danced well or not, we were all together, being present, enjoying the moment, and having a blast! The next night, several of us met and took pictures with Nurse Blake (a RN, nursing and health advocate, and writer) at a party. During our few days at convention, we each had the opportunity to carve out time to enjoy the beautiful gardens around the gorgeous Salt Lake Temple and Tabernacle. Some of us experienced new adventures and crossed off items on our bucket list, such as seeing mountains, seeing snow, and skiing for the first time.

Attending convention inspired **Kokoro Schwartz** to be involved. “Attending the NSNA convention changed the way I feel about going through nursing

school. Seeing other students be active and working to make changes in the field of nursing inspired me to do more. I no longer want to go through nursing school with my head ‘buried,’ unaware of what is going on around me with my school and classmates. I want to make connections and be active in my community!”

Brandyn Filerman summed up his experience, “The Convention experience was breathtaking. I’ve been so excited to tell people what it was like, and how much of a voice we all have as students. I’m so happy to be a part of CASN and could represent Charity and Louisiana at the Convention. I’m glad I’m involved and participating in these incredible opportunities.”

As our trip came to an end, we held fond memories, talked about what we learned, and shared our passion for nursing. We were inspired to be the best nurses for our patients and to rise up to the challenges we may face. We learned that we are empowered by advocating for ourselves, our patients, and healthcare as a whole. We learned that we are not just a nursing student, but we are one of several thousands of nursing students who have a voice, can create change, and have a positive impact within our future nursing profession. We learned that we are supported and empowered by fellow nursing students, Registered Nurses, student nursing associations, and professional associations.

To the Charity Alumni Association, we thank you for your generosity and support for us to attend convention. We work hard all year, selling t-shirts and working events, to raise money to attend national convention, but your

contributions make it possible for so many of us to attend!

I have no doubt that these CASN members will become amazing leaders and productive nurses within our community. We look forward to graduating from the Charity School of Nursing, becoming part of the Alumni Association, and setting great examples for our future nursing students. You have paved the way for us and we will continue that path for future nursing students. Thank you for being positive role models and letting us explore this journey outside of nursing school. ❖



Creating Dreams and Memories

By Brandyn Filerman, May 2019

Only a few years ago did I decide to go to Nursing School, and here I am writing to you all as a graduate. For the fellow alumni, first of all, a huge thank you for your continued support and encouragement to us students. It fills our world with gratitude and determination. To the students that may be reading this, I urge you to please consider joining an organization at your school immediately. I joined CASN in my final semester at Charity School of Nursing, and got to go on one of the greatest learning adventures of my lifetime.

I was invited to attend the National Student Nurses Association convention in Salt Lake City, Utah this year, and went with nine of my fellow students, some freshmen, some juniors, and half of us representing as seniors. Not only was I encouraged to attend from my instructors and peers, the Alumni Association also made a generous grant to CASN that paid for some of our travel expenses.

The NSNA convention was nothing shy of surprising, beautiful, and inspiring. I cannot express how much appreciation and gratitude I have for my fellow students both at Charity as well as all over the country, and for the opportunity to explore a new place with new people.

I got to meet literally thousands of fellow nursing students and faculty nationwide. We attended speeches and got inspiration and lessons from educators, staff, and universities from around the world. Part of this convention involved being a participant in the House of Delegates to present our opinions in what we believe matters in the field of Nursing. We represented Charity, and the state of Louisiana, in both supporting and challenging agendas which we felt was necessary to be addressed at a federal level.

To explore a brand new city in a state I have never been to before in my life was so exciting. I was able to walk around town, see the great pipe organ played with the Tabernacle Choir, and went skiing for the first time! →

I would not trade my experiences with CASN for the world. To be a part of such an incredible convention, as well as helping to volunteer at school events and in the school store throughout the semester, was an honor. I never thought I had the time available to give back to my school, my fellow students, and to myself in previous semesters which delayed my joining until Level IV.

If I can say anything to any students reading this, it would be this: Join an organization in your school now. Whether it be CASN, SGA, Spectrum, wherever you find a good fit, join them today. You will have time, and it will not take away from your studies. While operating the school store, I was able to study in my free time. I was going to attend those school events anyways, but I was just on the other side of the tables. You have time to give, and you get so much out of it in doing so.

I wish I would have joined in Level I, but am so grateful that I got to be a part of an organization at my school that allowed me to be so active and involved in the student body as well as the Nursing world. The experiences, the support, and the family I have made in this journey will carry into the rest of my life.

Again, special thanks to the alumni, who help us create the dreams we have had for so long. I will pay it forward and treasure these memories always.

To all of the dear friends and adventures we have shared and made along the way. To the inside jokes, to our mutual victories and setbacks. To what has pushed us forward, and what has tried to knock us back. To when we would all pick each other up when we would fall, and that strength, compassion, and perseverance we built and gave to ourselves and to each other. ❖

From the Executive Director

By Lista Hank '97

Summer is going so fast - it will be September before we know it! So don't delay on ordering your tickets for the Fall Breakfast on September 28! This is the last alumni get-together we will have before Homecoming in October 2020, so don't miss this chance to see your classmates and friends!

Contact Your Class

Speaking of Homecoming, you should probably be starting now to contact all your classmates! The Alumni Office can provide a class list with all the addresses, phone numbers and email information we have. We can also provide mailing labels if you want to send a letter. Many people have had luck finding "lost" classmates on the web, but it takes a little time, so don't leave it until the last minute! You don't have to wait until some special



anniversary to get your class together, and Homecoming offers plenty of fun! And it's always more fun when a bunch of your classmates are there!

There will be a lot more details about Homecoming in the *Alumni News* this fall, and in the 2020 *White Cap* next spring. For now, just mark your calendar: October 17 & 18, 2020.

Cadet Nurse Exhibit

This spring and summer, we had the opportunity to display an exhibit about the Cadet Nurse Corps in all six Delgado libraries throughout the metropolitan area. It has been exciting to be able to share this chapter in the School of Nursing's history and some biographies of Charity's own cadets with so many campuses and students. You can see excerpts from the exhibit on our website. Go to **CharityAlumni.org** and click on "Cool Stuff."

Newsy Notes

Send in your career news or just a note to say how you're doing! We love including all that in the newsletters! You can email or just write!

Finally, thank you to everyone for sending in your membership dues and donations! Your gifts are how we do everything that we do, from the newsletters to scholarships, from preserving our archives (like scanning those yearbooks!) to assisting students in emergencies, running our office and website, and so much more! YOU make it all happen! YOU are OUR Super Power! ❖

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EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR Lista Hank '97



Alumni Notes

Dorothy Sumrall Livingston '50 (*Arkadelphia, AR*) sent us her Charity Pin and ordered a brick for her classmate **Dixie Poole Keyes '50** who passed in 2012. "I hope the nurse that wears this pin will wear it with as much pride as I did. I will always be grateful to the nursing school. It was a wonderful place to grow up, mature, learn responsibility and countless other things that help one to build a better life for yourself and others. The nuns did a wonderful job!"

Mona Robicheaux Rojas '57 (*Las Vegas, NV*): Mona was unable to attend the Spring Luncheon, but had a question about the depiction of a nurse, in a wonderful superhero stance, in the email reminder and on the centerpieces. "The nurse looks exactly like a classmate of mine, Mitzi Taggart! Could it be?" Indeed that artwork was based on a photo of **Marian Taggart Jacobsen '57**, always called "Mitzi," in her cape. Says Mona, "We lived on the same floor in the dorm and she was a good friend. I hope she is well and that this picture makes her as proud, as a CHSN graduate, as I am."



Mitzi Taggart '57

Rosalind Goodbread Baldwin '57 (*Baton Rouge, LA*): "I am enclosing a check for the Luncheon and also a donation for the Student Emergency Fund. Looking forward to seeing everyone and sharing memories of the best days of my life. I love Charity!"

Rosemary Myers Breau '58 (*Clinton, LA*): "I look forward to receiving the news about school so much. Big Charity was a big part of my life. I met my husband through my classmates – he was their first cousin. Sadly he passed in 2017. I will always cherish my time at Charity. I will never forget my classmates. I wish I could attend a reunion, but my health won't permit a trip. I have a bad shoulder and knees. Age! But I'm thankful I'm still here – I'm 82. I'm including a donation in memory of my classmate **Rose Ella Chenevert Miller**. God bless

everyone – and please keep me in your prayers. Remember to live each day like it may be your last!"

Lorre Lei Jackson '58 (*River Ridge, LA*): "I enjoyed attending the Spring Luncheon and seeing **Ann Matthiesen Daigle '58** and **Cecile Ginger Andry '58**. Ginger's children went to school with my children. Ann and I were roommates and **Evelyn Schroeder '58** and I have remained close since graduation. She was my only wedding attendant as we planned a small event since my husband's mother had suffered a bleed from an aneurysm and expired four days before the wedding. Evelyn is also the godmother of my youngest daughter and 'Aunt Evie' to all my children. Experiences shared in those three years at Charity had a way of causing a bonding. First of all, who else could relate to what you had seen, what you had learned in those years? Within those years I saw more life and death than most individuals, except those in the military, see in a lifetime. I learned to improvise and I know I can function in any third world country and did when my husband and I went to Larry Mellon's Albert Schweitzer hospital in Haiti for a week to operate on neurosurgical patients and again in New Orleans after Katrina."

Maxine Blackmon Jones '59 (*Pelham, AL*): "Thank you for the new pocket calendar with the picture of **Sally Cooper '59**. I always thought Sally had a firm concept of who she was and I think the picture on the calendar depicts her confidence. It helped me to recall some early school incidents that we shared. On my first day at the school my parents had dropped me off for them to drive back to Alabama. I had



Sally Cooper '59

just settled things in my new room in the dorm. Sally and **Ruth Wallace '59** were already settled in their room just around the hall from me. Sally stuck her head in my door and invited me to go to whatever meal (lunch or dinner) that was being served in the dorm. That helped me to overcome my immediate home-sickness and helped me to find my way in the dorm. On another occasion, Sally and I were attending some sort of social event in the dorm. We both happened to be standing near each other close to the door and Sally leaned over to me and said, "Let's blow this joint." Her terminology tickled me, and it helped both of us to gracefully exit.

It was great to visit with some of my '59 classmates at the Spring Luncheon! I always enjoyed being around →

Suzy Andry '59. It was an honor for me to recognize her accomplishments with a scholarship. I am enclosing a check to create a scholarship in honor of **Doris Burvant '60.** It will be nice for Doris to receive recognition next year when her class celebrates their 60th anniversary!"

Ethel Faciane Friend '60 (*New Iberia, LA*) stopped by the school to donate her 1958, 1959 and 1960 yearbooks, and a microbiology textbook. We only had one copy each of the '58 and '59 yearbooks, so we are really grateful for her gift! **Anne Langston Lind '51** (*Irving, TX*) mailed us a box of several yearbooks, too, from 1956, 1960, 1962, 1965 and 1968 – all of which are in short supply and we really appreciate her sending!

Rosemary Hathorn Holmes '62 (*Zephyr, TX*): "The spirit of Charity is still with me! I pray every night that I was able to graduate from there and always had a good job and was able to go into the U.S. Air Force Nurse Corps (retired at 70)!! I love the picture on the note pad! I loved our uniform. Darn, I wish I was still there, but so much has changed since then! We need more schools like Charity! Keep up the good work!"

Martha Meaux Genin '65 (*New Orleans, LA*): "I am very humbled by the honor of the Charity Pin being awarded in my name. I feel I don't deserve this as I simply took what Charity taught me to care for my patients. My hope is to give aspiring nurses lacking finances, as I was, the opportunity to receive the BEST nursing school education and have the confidence and rewarding experiences I've had in nursing. Even though we have sadly lost our Big Charity, the source of unlimited educational opportunities, and our Sister Stanislaus dorm which created abiding friendships that still exist 50+ years later, Charity Nurses must continue!"

Elaine Ledoux Phares '66 (*Clinton, LA*): "Thanks for the newsletter! Just read it from cover to cover. Always wonderful to read about fellow nurses and their activities. I have been officially retired from the State of Louisiana since 2004 and Army Reserves since 2005. I have continued to do Continuing Education to maintain my license. Wishing everyone all the best!"

Rhonda Henry McClain '90 (*Gretna, LA*): "I am a diploma graduate of Charity – under the name Rhonda McCaskill. I returned to school and recently graduated with my BS in Health Informatics and Information Management. I am also a Certified RHIA (Registered Health Information Administrator). Since then I have been promoted to the RN Clinical Documentation Improvement Specialist. I just wanted to say that I am proud to be a graduate of Charity and let the Alumni

Association know how Charity graduates continue to prosper."

Judy Sherville Breaux '97 (*Lafayette, LA*) called to say "I love the fact that I still get the *Alumni News*!"

Deborah Meis (*Tipp City, OH*), retired counselor for Charity School of Nursing: "Ever since the Winter 2018 *Alumni News* arrived, I have wanted to let you know what a great newsletter it was! Congratulations are surely in order! It was huge, 24 pages filled with interesting topics and so much news. For me, it is like getting news from home... from Charity!" ❖

Excerpted from the Capping Address Delivered May 18, 1956 By Mary Ellyn Chadwick '53

Honored Students, Ladies and Gentlemen:

Tonight these 107 students receive the official cap of their school. Receiving the cap is important. Important because it is a symbol of nursing. Each time you put on your cap you will once again be pledging yourself to the profession you have chosen.

In receiving your cap you accept a great obligation – an obligation to the patient, the community, your school and yourself. Receiving the cap does not mean the hard work is over. In reality, it has just begun. Much more will be expected of you than ever before.

I want you to think tonight about your obligation to the patient. This obligation is to be a good nurse. As a nurse, you need to be much like an artist: have a general idea of what you expect to accomplish, then start putting the idea into effect, standing back occasionally to look over your work and to see where you can improve it, perhaps to erase or add. In other words, once knowing what you wish to do, you must occasionally recollect, contemplate and evaluate.

All that you do must be weighed in the light of standards of good nursing and ultimately the standards of good living. Some of us are oftentimes too prone to measure our nursing care in terms of activity – how *much* we do in one day, how *many* things we accomplish. We should take time out once in a while to think about what we believe nursing is – or ought to be. You should ask yourself this question: What should I as a good nurse, citizen, and fine person be?

In thinking about this question, we should realize that what we call nursing is far less important than what we make it. Without question this essential service to society should be governed by the highest motives and ideals. In the minds of those who are in the hospital, you will be a part of their total experience – inseparable from what they

think of when the word *hospital* is used. You can make a beautiful room ugly or make an ugly room beautiful. What you do becomes an indefinable part of the lives of those for whom you care. Your own personal conduct will be written in everything you do. Your own personal ideals will be visible to every eye.

What patients think of you is important. You may have much to do with influencing good thoughts, attitudes and actions. Not only will you have the opportunity to teach patients, but you will be in a position to guide their families and friends. With this in mind, you must watch carefully your own attitudes and actions.

Think of all the little things you can do for the patient in the length of time it takes to say, "Wait just a minute," or "I'm too busy right now." Remember that *how* you say things to the patient influences him and reflects your feelings as much, if not more than, *what* you say.

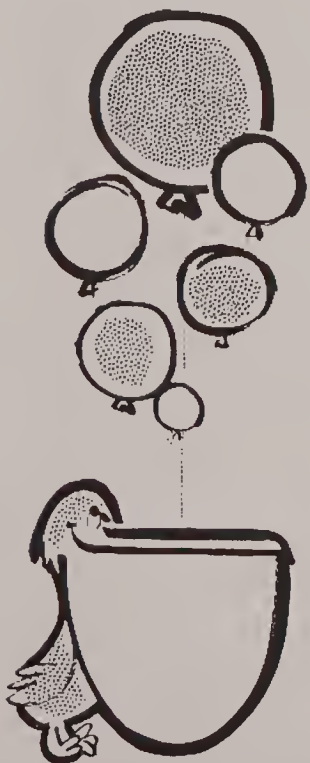
The way your hands touch a patient also reflect your feelings. If they press too hard they will hurt. If they touch too lightly they will not provide the reassurance he needs. If you place them gently, yet firmly, the patient will feel secure.

I want to tell you something about your hands. Once they were just hands. They smoothed your hair, held the hand of someone you love, may one day clasp your baby close – they serve you because they are your hands.

Now you and others have trained them to be the hands of a nurse. Your hands may touch sordid wounds and injured flesh, fevered brows and fretful limbs. As you touch the bodies, your ministry touches hearts and souls. God will move through your fingertips.

May you never lose your love for nursing, and may God go with you all the way. ❖

Mary Ellyn Chadwick '53 passed away in 1995.



Reunion Plans

Class of 1969: Fifty Year Reunion this fall!

We are planning to hold our **50-Year Reunion** at the Alumni Breakfast on **Sept. 28, 2019**. We are also planning to meet at Andrea's Restaurant the night before (Friday, September 27) for an informal get-

together. If you are a member of the Class of 1969, please

contact me so I can keep you informed of all the plans.

Juanita Gauthier Deshotel 318-729-6989

juanitagauthier@bellsouth.net

I have been unable to get in touch with a number of 1969 graduates, so if you haven't heard from me, please call! ❖

Class of 1964:

Fifty-Five Year Reunion this fall!

We are planning a 55-Year Reunion at the September 28 Alumni Breakfast. Please join us!

Judith Wellman Quigley '64

949-854-5545 traumamom@aol.com ❖

Class of 1960:

Sixty Year Reunion in 2020

We are planning our 60-Year Anniversary reunion for Homecoming in October 2020. If you haven't heard from me, please contact me!

Doris Tucker Burvant '60

985-641-8815 (h) or 504-430-4741 (c)

flossyb3@hotmail.com ❖

Class of 1970:

Fifty Year Reunion in 2020

2020 will be a banner year for the Class of 1970! Fifty years ago we graduated and bid each other goodbye. Wouldn't it be fabulous to see each other again? Let's really make this a true celebration as part of Homecoming 2020. More details to follow!

Start getting out your old photos from our glory days at CHSN! It will be fun to share with everyone! Please help us by reaching out to our fellow classmates! If you are in touch with anyone, please make sure they know!

Please contact one of us to let us know you plan to attend:

Patti Rouchon Burcham sandpburcham@gmail.com

Darwin Schaubhut Martin queendarwin@gmail.com

Francine Taaffe Dyer ftdyer@comcast.net ❖

How about YOUR class?

Why wait for 50 years to go by? You can organize a reunion for your class now! It's easy to schedule one to coincide with an alumni event – just contact your classmates and encourage them to attend!

The Alumni Office can provide a class list with addresses, phone numbers and emails, and we can provide mailing labels. Contact us at **chsnaaoffice@gmail.com**.

Judith Wellman Quigley '64 is a whiz at finding folks on the internet. She has graciously offered to help you find your classmates. Contact her at 949-854-5545, or at traumamom@aol.com ❖

Ila Whittom, Class of 1933

By Christye Hatfield

Christye wrote us earlier this year to ask if we would be interested in her aunt's nursing school photos, diploma and other items. "I hate to just throw them out and there is no family to pass them on to." Of course, we were delighted to accept the items and give them a home in our archives. Christye included this lovely biography of her aunt with the mementos.

Thank you so much for your interest in my Great Aunt Ila's nursing school memorabilia. She graduated from Charity Hospital School of Nursing on February 26, 1933, part of the Golden Jubilee class. There were 40 graduates as she noted on her class photo. She also put a checkmark next to her picture.

Ila Bertie Whittom was born in Foxworth, MS, in 1907. She was one of the older children in a family of six who survived to adulthood. Upon graduating from high school in 1926, she worked on the family farm and sought scarce employment in rural Mississippi during the Great Depression. Always independent and with a mind of her own, she moved to New Orleans and enrolled in nursing school. Her family was scandalized by both the move and her choice of professions!

A few months after graduating, she married Etienne Paul Breaux of New Orleans who was a cable car motorman. They had a blissful marriage and she always said that "Toots" was the love of her life. Sadly, after only one and a half years of marriage, he died of dehydration from influenza.

With World War II looming on the horizon, and to escape her sorrows, Ila took a train to Oakland, California, and was employed in the shipyards of Richmond, CA, as a RN for Henry J. Kaiser. Kaiser established the clinic for the ship workers under his employment, which eventually became Kaiser Hospitals.

Being a registered nurse defined Ila's very existence. She worked in nursing throughout her adult life, remarried and had her only child, Bruce in 1947 – at the then advanced age of 40! She was the go to person in our family for anything medical, often nursing us back to health in her home. I well remember coming down with mumps the day after my tonsillectomy at age 5 and being under her loving, but no-nonsense, care.

Ila developed dementia in the late 1980s and came to live with her younger sister Willa (known as Aunt Bill). Aunt Bill's dying request to me was that I take care of Aunt Ila – which I did until Ila's death on May, 19, 1995.



Charity Hospital School of Nursing
New Orleans, Louisiana

This Certifies That **Ila Whittom**

has completed the regular course of three years of instruction and practice in the Charity Hospital School of Nursing, during which term her conduct has been satisfactory and she has passed with credit the required examinations.

In Witness Whereof, we have herewith set our hands and affixed the Seal of the Hospital this **twenty-sixth** day of **February** nineteen hundred and **thirty-three**.

Oscar K. Allen
GOVERNOR AND EX OFFICIO PRESIDENT
BOARD OF ADMINISTRATORS
Geo. B. Bel, M.D.
VICE PRESIDENT BOARD OF ADMINISTRATORS
Edw. W. Hawthorne
SECRETARY BOARD OF ADMINISTRATORS

Arthur Villeneuve, M.D.
SUPERINTENDENT OF HOSPITAL
Sister Stanislaus, R.N.
SISTER SUPERIOR, DIRECTRESS
Sister Thérèse, R.N.
SUPERINTENDENT OF NURSES

She deserved to have her many decades of love and care to so many reciprocated in kind.

For the nearly 25 years since her death, I have held on to many of her cherished items and paperwork. I am glad to find a home for them. I have enclosed: her diploma in the original leather holder; her 1933 graduation picture; a picture dated July 1931 of the Charity Hospital Nursing Group; her Louisiana Board of Nurses certification as a registered nurse, dated June 14, 1933; her original California nursing license, dated September 1939; copies of pictures of her first husband, Etienne Paul Breaux, of her son Bruce taken in 1953, of Ila with her cherished sister Bill, and of Ila at Christmas in 1994 before her death the following May.

I hope you enjoy this story and can share it with whoever might be interested. And, on the off chance that anyone knows of a Breaux family who may be related to Etienne Paul Breaux, I have a number of documents they might be interested in. ❖



Scholarships & Awards

At the Promotion and Awards Ceremony on February 11, the Alumni Association presented \$8,800 in scholarships and awards to Charity students. Congratulations to these outstanding students.

(Pictured left to right, top to bottom):

LEVEL 2

Tara Brown, Nancy Carol

Rodgers '83 Scholarship \$500

John Spooner, Sister Blanche

McDonnel Scholarship \$500

Zachary Pichon, Sister Laurentia

Walsh Scholarship \$500

(Not pictured):

Trevor Williams, Margaret

Robichaux Elliott '49 Scholarship \$500

LEVEL 3

Maggie LeBlanc, Hugh and Maria

Garcia Roach '38 Scholarship \$1,000

Allison Solino, Leona Kruebbe

Hilbert '46 Scholarship \$500

Laurie Siekkinen, Sister Camilla

Gaudin Scholarship \$500

LEVEL 4

Mira Bull, Newell Suzy Andry '59

Scholarship \$500

William Pellegrin, Sally Cooper '59

Scholarship \$1,000

Kasey Hall, Mary Ann Signorelli

Whynot '46 Scholarship \$500

Brandi Borden, Marcelle Jacobs

Wright '41 Scholarship \$500

Amanda Weinberger, Joycelyn

Jeansonne '78 Scholarship \$500

Ahoefa Agbobli, Althea Betty Swanson Scholarship \$500

PIN AWARDS

(up to \$100 toward graduation pin)

Brandyn Filerman, Marie Gaudet Beaulieu '46

Pin Award

(Not pictured):

Casey Chance, Kirk LaVasseur '79 Pin Award

Heather Ney, Carolyn Schwarz Myers Pin Award ❖



The Charity Federation of Nurses Awards are chosen by random drawing at the Promotion Ceremony among current Charity students. The spring semester recipients (*not pictured*) were:

Sang Ho - RN program \$500

Carol Barber - PN program \$500



Goodbyes

Doris Estelle '42 was born in Franklin, LA, and grew up on a sugar plantation where her father ran the dairy. She followed her sister Daisy to Charity Hospital School of



Nursing, graduating in 1942. Working at Charity Hospital, Doris specialized in communicable diseases. She joined the U.S. Army Nurse Corps, and served during World War II in Italy and North Africa - where, in Tunisia, she worked in a mobile hospital immediately behind the front lines, treating polio patients as well as

wounded soldiers. At one point she was on a ship in the Strait of Gibraltar with a course set for Japan, when the captain suddenly announced that the war was over. Doris' ship was the first troop ship to return to the US at the war's end. Because of her wartime experience, Doris decided to attend the Medical College of Virginia for specialized training in physical therapy for the rehabilitation of wounded soldiers. She completed her certification in 1947 and returned to New Orleans to work as the assistant chief therapist at the Veterans Center. She treated veterans with brain injuries, amputations and tuberculosis. She then moved to Southern Baptist Hospital as the chief therapist where she helped design and run the acute care department. While in the National Guard from 1946-62, she was one of only three women, the only one from New Orleans, to complete the Command General Staff Course during 1954 to 1962. She retired from the Army with the rank of Major in 1962. After a brief retirement at age 66, she returned to work in Home Health, providing direct patient care as well as staff supervision and therapist training. She finally retired in 2011 at age 91, quite possibly the world's most senior physical therapist! Doris passed quietly in her sleep in February 2019.

"I've been meaning to write to you about my Mother, **Marie Louise Breaux Burke Turner**. Mom was a student at Charity back in the early 1940's and graduated in 1943. It always comes to mind when the newsletter that you send out comes to my home addressed to her. Mom was always so proud to tell people that Charity is where she went to school. She always had that wonderful faraway but proud look in her eyes when she spoke about her days there. And she could keep a crowd so entertained when she



talked about how the nursing was then and how it is now. *So many things have changed!* she would say! Her stories about treating polio victims were so vivid in her mind and when she spoke about those days, you felt like you were there. I took Mom to New Orleans one day and we stopped by Charity. Oh how she loved that day!! She proudly showed me her room (from the outside) and we walked around inside. It was such a special day and she cried when we left.

Mom married my Daddy, Dr. Daniel W Burke, a Pediatrician, shortly after her graduation. They went on to have 7 children. Needless to say, with a RN for a Mom and a Pediatrician for a Dad, you could never get by with 'faking it' when you didn't want to go to school!

Mom was always a RN, but stayed home with all the children as we grew. When Daddy died unexpectedly in 1971, she went back to work at the Mobile Infirmary. She remarried several years later and after several moves, she and my stepfather moved to Dauphin Island, AL, where there were quite a few older couples. Mom was instantly the RN for the Island. And loved every minute!!

Mom passed away in January 2017 at the young age of 94. She was in great health other than a badly broken hip. Her mind was so sharp even up to the minute she left us for 'Home.' I truly believe that her nursing and staying involved with the practice for so long, kept her mind sharp and...then, of course, keeping up with all her children, grandchildren and great grandchildren. We were so very blessed that she was our Mother – the best!!

Mom is so missed by all of us, as is our Dad. I know they are in Heaven dancing the night away! Mom said that Daddy was at the front door with an outstretched hand the day she died. She actually spoke to me just minutes before she died. I have so many loving memories of both of them, and for that I am grateful. Mom is teaching Jesus a little bit about Cajun cooking too!

I have so loved reading the newsletter and thank you for this kind gesture! Yes, please keep me on the mailing list. It really does make me feel closer to her and keeps her wonderful memory very warm!"

- Barbara B. Sullivan

Elphie M. Babineaux '44 was born in Mere, LA, and lived in Lake Charles most of her life. After graduation from Charity Hospital School of Nursing, Elphie enlisted in the United States Army and served as a Second Lieutenant and a registered nurse in the Women's Army Corp during World War II. After her discharge from the Army, Elphie returned to Lake Charles to become the first plant



nurse at PPG Industries where she worked for twenty-eight years. She also worked as a part-time operating room nurse at St. Patrick Hospital.

“I’m writing on behalf of my mother, **Julie Marie Sere Olivier**, who graduated from Charity in **1950**. She passed away in February 2018 at the age of 92. She was a native of Lafayette, LA, and resided there most of her life. After high school, she attended Loyola University of the South and SLI in Lafayette, but her compassion and dedication to helping others led her to Charity’s School of Nursing. She worked as a registered nurse for many years at Our Lady of Lourdes Hospital, and taught at the Gulf Area Vo-Tech School as an instructor in the LPN program. She was always proud to proclaim that she was a graduate of Charity, and as a teacher she passed on the valuable lessons and experiences that she had acquired from Charity to future nurses. Thank you for sending the newsletters and keeping her informed of the many blessings that Charity Nurses continue to bestow on our communities.” – *Patricia Olivier Begnaud*

“I’m writing to advise you of the passing of my beloved mom **Dorothy Newman Hunt**, a CHSN graduate of **1953**, in August of 2017. Mom had the gentle soul of a kind caregiver and the passion for service to others. CHSN helped make her the servant of Christ that she was.”

– *Paula Hunt*

“My mother **Mary Arnold Gardner**, a **1961** graduate, passed away unexpectedly in January at home. She was very proud of being a CHSN graduate as well as her decades of service at Charity Hospital.” – *Huey Gardner*

Phyllis Bourgeois Beeching ‘63 worked in health care for 50 plus years, and served her country in the U.S. Navy during the Vietnam War. She passed away in February.

Patricia Ferguson Lawless ‘64 was the RN Supervisor on the psychiatric ward at Charity Hospital for years, before relocating to Mississippi. She became a dialysis nurse in order to care for her ailing husband at home until his death. At 57, became a nurse for Dunbar Village Nursing Home until Hurricane Katrina destroyed it. At the age of 65, she became a Hospice Nurse with Odyssey Hospice. At 73, she returned to work at the rebuilt Dunbar Village Nursing Home. She raised money to buy bicycles for needy families in Vietnam, delivered meals to homebound and hospice patients. Patricia had been planning a trip to London this October with her friend **Judith Quigley ‘64**, but died suddenly in June.

After graduating from Charity School of Nursing, **Karen Cooney (Guillot) Duncan ‘79** earned her BS in nursing from Regent’s College in New York. After starting in

Charity Hospital’s emergency department and recovery room, where she was night charge nurse, she became nursing director of Southern Surgery Center, an out-patient surgery center; head nurse at Touro Infirmary; and the nurse in charge of insurance and Medicare management at Mercy and Southern Baptist hospitals. She was also Mercy’s risk manager. After 15 years of clinical and management experience, she enrolled in Loyola’s College of Law, graduating in 1995. “It was a natural transition from medicine to law, says Maria Hamilton, a friend and lawyer. “She could go straight to the heart of the matter, and she had a way of synthesizing and reaching practical, common-sense solutions.”

Karen was in private practice with a specialty in medical malpractice until 2013, when she joined a medical malpractice insurance company. She died in December 2018 of complications of breast cancer. ❖

In Memorium

We publish the names of those alumni who have passed away as we learn of them, with their graduation year and date of death. Farewell to these friends:

Doris Rita Estelle ‘42 (2/13/19)
 Marie Louise Breaux Burke Turner ‘43 (1/18/17)
 Elphie M. Babineaux ‘44 (1/2/12)
 Beverly Eckhardt Keene ‘45 (4/21/19)
 Mona Hagan Martinez ‘46 (2/23/19)
 Patricia Haggerty Horn ‘50 (10/5/18)
 Julie Sere Olivier ‘50 (2/27/18)
 Evelyn Valentine Poupart ‘52 (4/23/19)
 Dorothy Newman Hunt ‘53 (8/5/17)
 Margaret Stulb Ruli ‘54 (2/21/19)
 Marilyn Kinsey Bishop ‘59 (1/9/15)
 Wenonah Shipman Cosmas ‘59 (12/15/18)
 Vivian Thames Frensilli ‘59 (10/31/10)
 Norma Autry Ostler ‘59 (1/24/10)
 Eleanor Crowder Spence ‘59 (6/8/16)
 Mary Constance Zimmer ‘59 (7/19/17)
 Mary Arnold Gardner ‘61 (1/30/19)
 Charlotte Eiserloh Woessner ‘61 (5/26/19)
 Phyllis Bourgeois Beeching ‘63 (2/16/19)
 Judith Drawdy DeHays ‘64 (10/16/17)
 Earline Christensen Kuhlman ‘64 (5/12/17)
 Patsy Ferguson Lawless ‘64 (6/23/19)
 Judy Ann Macias ‘64 (1/21/19)
 Frances “Pat” Giddings Mullens ‘64 (4/25/19)
 Jeanette Dooley Pacas Brendler ‘68 (4/17/19)
 Fabian Thibodeaux Whitney ‘71 (11/27/18)
 Geralyn Breaux Cavalier Faciane ‘74 (9/24/18)
 Karen Cooney (Guillot) Duncan ‘79 (12/7/18)
 Rachael Estopinal Calamari ‘92 (1/14/19)
 Mary Jane Talbot LeRouge ‘93 (5/26/19) ❖

Members of Note

SUSTAINING MEMBERS

Gloria Redmond Ashman ‘48
Margaret Robichaux Elliott ‘49
Rowena Smith Christensen ‘51
Celina Machin Haynie ‘51
Betty Ogea Moore ‘51
Hazel MacKillican Wilson ‘52
Martha Phillips Gentry ‘53
Marijean Martin Pruett ‘54
Rita Jo Neary Ellsworth ‘55
Jean Altice Blake ‘58
Anna Martino Meinert ‘59
Esther Ogea Doucet ‘60
Joan Arceneaux Levasseur ‘60
Frances Petho Aponte ‘61
Joan Bero ‘63
Barbara Johnson Roger ‘63
Dorothy Russell Stagg ‘63
Penny Kistler Tolchin ‘63
Ethel Marie Vidrine ‘63
Janette Foy Brown ‘64
Geraldine Bourgeois Daigle ‘64
Judith Wellman Quigley ‘64
Estelle LeBlanc Rome ‘64
Linda Sue Grimme Fontenot ‘65
Roberta Purvis Bartee ‘66
Susan Nebel Nielsen ‘66
Beverly Poche Chapoton ‘67
Jean Hageney Houin ‘67
Karen Moulliet ‘67
Peggy Portie Parigi ‘67
Betty Schweitzer Touns ‘67
Louanna Cardinale Whiddon ‘67
Dr. Marelle Yongue ‘67
Mary Wood ‘67
Barbara “Bobbi” Bonner Folse ‘68
Patti Rouchon Burcham ‘70
Janie “Trudy” Carrier Lefort ‘70
Lucille LeBlanc O’Regan ‘70
Charlotte Arras ‘71
Sarah Percy LeBlanc ‘71
Marian Foret Offner ‘71
Jo Ann Rizzutto ‘71
Kathy Garrand Rolston ‘71
D. Paxson Barker ‘72
Rosalie Parenton Vincent ‘72
Dennis and Lynel Pinkozie ‘73
Wilda Taylor ‘73
Mary Iannazzo Trosclair ‘73
Susan Duhon ‘74
Nancy O’Pry Gentry ‘74
Charlene White Persich ‘74
Mary Susan Le Compte Farrar ‘75
Jamie Walker Jensen ‘75
Julie M. Joyce ‘75
Vicky P. Kent ‘75
Donna Blanchard Landry ‘75
Maureen Connelly Mayeux ‘75

Barbara McClees ‘75
Joseph Nigliazzo, Jr. ‘75
Graciela Pinto-Leyva ‘75
Jeannette Milligan Saal ‘75
Jan Carrio ‘76
Bryanne Murray Hamill ‘76
Lane E. McAlister ‘76
Myra Lee DiGange ‘77
Sheila Perrault Dahlgren ‘78
Marilyn Nola Hammett Gentry ‘78
Joycelyn Gondolfo Jeansonne ‘78
Sandra Tracy Bailey ‘79
Cindy Tschrin Nuesslein ‘79
Vickie Morrow Gibert ‘79
Karen DelValle Tampira ‘79
Claudette Boudreaux ‘80
Belinda Hutchinson Janeski ‘80
Cydney Trahans Begnaud ‘81
Gloria Hallal Jarreau ‘81
Elizabeth Kelly Carlini ‘82
Renee Rago Schuller ‘83
Patricia Dufrene ‘85
Elaine Riecke Bergeron ‘86
Gina West Ragland ‘86
Kevin Besse ‘91
Michael Harrison ‘92
Betty Trosclair Loumiet ‘92
Craig A. Cedotal ‘94
Mitzi Ridgdell Arnold ‘93
Penny Authement Schuler ‘94
Margaret Johnson Jackson ‘96
Brenda Shields Simmons ‘96
Elizabeth Scanlan Bowen ‘97
Lista Hank ‘97
Roxanne LeBlanc McNally ‘97
Cynthia Fernandez ‘10
Elaine Lauga ‘12
Danielle Chambers ‘14

SISTER STANISLAUS 2019

Rita Thornberry Sharpe ‘53
Rita Fay Borne Broussard ‘66
Brenda Crump Trosclair ‘68
Patricia Darcy Weed ‘68
Paula Favre Brewington ‘69
Ginny Graves Clark ‘69
Carolyn M. Bartsch ‘70
Gayle Guerin Fertitta ‘70
Maria Compagno Roth ‘71
Connie Bousquet ‘77
Debra Dumas-Hicks ‘77
Renee Bridget Guidry ‘87

SILVER STAR 2019

Janet Talbot Nuzum Green ‘50
Dolores Marsh Alford ‘51
Marion Thibodaux Gatti ‘54
Nancy Mynihan Comish ‘57
Camilla Michael Lusco ‘59
Glenda Moak Mckean ‘59
Janice Hebert Scott ‘59
Catherine Lafleur St. Cyr ‘59
Ethel Faciane Friend ‘60
Joyce Allen Urode ‘60
Pamela Maycock Coulter ‘62
Rosemary Hathorn Holmes ‘62

Madeleine Moreau Crawford ‘63
Leona Lipari Lee ‘63
Martha Meaux Genin ‘65
Susan Thibodeaux Grace ‘65
Constance Kennedy Proctor ‘65
Joyce Joy Champagne ‘66
Jo Ann Pierce Ligon ‘66
Elaine Ledoux Phares ‘66
Sandra Cazenave Graugnard ‘67
Mary Katherine Landry Bocz ‘69
Francine Taafe Dyer ‘70
Camille Bourgeois Whittaker ‘70
Deborah Edwards Bolotte ‘72
Rosemary Lamia Hemelt ‘72
Helen Roubion ‘76
Suzanne Delhomme Lemoine ‘77
Jacqueline Jenkins ‘79
Patricia Lane ‘79
Robin Napoli Bowman ‘83
Veronica Gautreaux Theriot ‘85
April Bourg Evans ‘90
Bonnie Wilbur ‘92
Anne McCutchen Silverstein ‘98
Bryan J. Camus ‘12
Brooke Troxclair ‘17

BLUE RIBBON 2019

Billie Hilton Robertson ‘48
Ramona Moorefield Updegraff ‘50
Mary Katherine Brune Mollere ‘52
Vivian Cheramie DeFelice ‘53
Nancy Rooker Dorsa ‘53
M. Delores Carter ‘56
Rosemary Myers Breau ‘58
Lorre Lei Laang Jackson ‘58
Pat Aulenbrock Crotwell ‘59
Catherine LaFleur St. Cyr ‘59
Judith Lohr Dauterive ‘60
Antoinette Keating Sykes ‘61
Meralee Marquet Clement ‘62
Karen Krpata Bradley ‘63
Lynne Gordon Cook ‘63
Yvonne Gauthier McGaha ‘63
Bettie Unsworth Nolin ‘63
Brenda Rabren Putman ‘63
Alice Faye Chambers Brady ‘64
Charlotte Voinche Guinn ‘64
Yvonne White Hollingsworth ‘64
Patricia Ferguson Lawless ‘64
Susan Regner Noll ‘64
Marilee Keating Phillips ‘64
Joan Cotter Fleitas ‘65
Kathleen Hynes Hug ‘65
Ann Tomsu Zielinski ‘65
Barbara Mahoney Helm ‘66
Janet Kelly Hiss ‘66
Lorraine Andry Penrod ‘66
Lynn Burton Rosenblatt ‘66
Virginia Faris Angle ‘67
Susan Theriot Gosnell ‘67
Mary Ellen Potier Hebert ‘67
Cassondra Stokes Hite ‘67
F. Dianne Perdue Weber ‘67
Bonnie Glover Williams ‘67
Lana Collins Craigo ‘68

Cynthia Hebert Liebel ‘68
Judith Webb McNeil ‘68
Lorraine Babin Fearheiley ‘69
Linda Boudreaux Guedry ‘70
Katherine Manuel Landreneau ‘71
Patricia LaFleur Lewis ‘71
Elaine Schiller Maguire ‘71
Darilyn Ziifle Schieffler ‘71
Mary Doucet Hains ‘72
Cynthia Steinkamp Michel ‘72
Madeline Cerniglia Totten ‘72
Bonnie Arton ‘73
Barbara Bordelon Glover ‘73
Stephanie Laws ‘73
Sherry Smith Simmons ‘73
Ginger O’Fleurty Broussard ‘74
Donna Vidrine Brown ‘74
Kathy Granier Herman ‘74
T. Roxanne Fuselier Cali ‘75
Anita Barras Landry ‘75
Lynn Battaglia O’Niell ‘75
Janice Breaux Samson ‘75
Genie LeBlanc Woodring ‘75
Rebecca Carter Fisher ‘76
Guimar Goransson ‘76
Marion Sams Johnson ‘76
Kay Beaulieu Kenney ‘76
Perry Meche ‘77
Rosalie Croft Gonzales ‘78
Kimberley Hoppe Keim ‘78
Susan Robbins Kocke ‘78
Linda Grant MacLachlan ‘78
Elaine Schulz Navaille ‘78
Charlene Robbins Berger ‘79
Marleen Cannon Bergeron ‘79
Robert J. Martinez ‘79
Bonny McDonald McGee ‘79
Jeanette Davis Robinson ‘80
John Bertucci ‘81
Nancy Allebone Capponi ‘81
Melissa Manuel Deshotels ‘81
Janet Smith ‘81
Karen Freitag Craig ‘83
Cynthia Larmeu Edwards ‘83
Karen Friley ‘83
Ellen Gautreaux ‘83
Cynthia Shaw Hallam ‘83
Betty Jo Mitchell ‘83
Linda G. Brown ‘85
Mary Sue Williams Sargo ‘85
Estelle Collins Vincent ‘85
Joni Barrett Waggenspack ‘87
Karen Medina D’Antonio ‘89
Mary Kelly ‘91
Margaret Yochum Caruso ‘92
Kim Keith-Chatman ‘92
Carol Dixon Leefe ‘92
Frances C. Loeske ‘92
Mary Terrebonne Parent ‘93
Lauren M. Terrio ‘96
Regina Foster Danner ‘97
Susan M. Rowell ‘98
Beverly Rainey ‘05
Susan Wentz ‘11
Mary Elaine Ponce-Gaudin ‘16

Members of Note

Continued

The following were received after The White Cap 2018:

SISTER STANISLAUS 2018

Charlotte Voinche Guinn '64
Renee Bridget Guidry '87

SILVER STAR 2018

Marilyn Landry Roccaforte '46
Rosemary Schnell '56
Lynda Vance Montagne '58
Kay Kirking Schmuellen '64
Joan Musacchia Taylor '66
Bonnie Hensley Mowe '70
Jacqueline Porth Owen '73
Elaine Schexnayder Launey '76
Catherine Berns '14

BLUE RIBBON 2018

Elaine Bodin Bond '58
Marie Boyle Segrave '58
Ethel Faciane Friend '60
Elva Keller Kimbrough '60
Beryl Ann Forgey Olhasso '60
Barbara Harmon Murray '63
Susan Theriot Gosnell '67
Peggy Kozak Jackson '67
Judith Watson Lastrapes '67
Susan Hebert Convenuto '68
Susan Edwards Berry '69
Cynthia Castagnetta Burke '70
Katherine Manuel Landreneau '71
Elaine Schiller Maguire '71
Virginia McNeely McCall '72
Donna Vidrine Brown '74
Patti Millet Elish '74
Claudia Launey Ortego '75
Marion Sams Johnson '76
Deborah Madison Leister '78
Carolyn Way Gonzales '80
Michelle Bily Cousans '81
Karen Six Rabalais '81
Betty Jo Mitchell '83
Terry Dalmas Praylo '83
Sharon Zitzmann Zambito '84
Gina Dominguez Brothers '85
Nancy Coleman Coffey '85
Cynthia Dailey Moran '85
Estelle Collins Vincent '85
Karen Bulanowski Rice '01

❖



2018-19 Outstanding Donors

Gifts of \$100 or more to Restricted Funds since The White Cap 2018

Alumni Scholarship Fund

Madeline Tolson Markwood '52
Nancy Rooker Dorsa '53
Martha Phillips Gentry '53
Sydney Wood Womack '57
Peggy Begnaud Johns '63
Roberta Purvis Bartee '66
Barbara Bonner Folse '68
Margaret "Peggy" Nicaud Prosser '73
Jan Carrio '76

Art & Archives Fund

Madeline Tolson Markwood '52

CASN Convention Travel Fund

Rebecca Rodrigue Bennink '68
Jan Carrio '76

Pin Awards

In Memory of Marie Gaudet Beaulieu '49
Roberta Bartee '66
In Memory of Claire Scheyd
Joycelyn Jeansonne '78
In Memory of Arthur Joseph DeLima Jr.
Michelle Delima
In Memory of Heber B. Dodson Pin
Evelyn Dodson

Sister Stanislaus Gardening Fund

Jan Carrio '76

Student Emergency Assistance Fund

Margaret Robichaux Elliott '49
Betty Wilson Guin '49
Betty Chalk Putman '54
Rosalind Goodbread Baldwin '57
Rosemary Myers Breau '58
Joan Arceneaux Levasseur '60
Joan Bero '63
Geraldine Bourgeois Daigle '64
Rebecca Rodrigue Bennink '68



Charity Hospital director Dr. Charles Mary (center) recognizes graduates Sarah Percy LeBlanc and Michael Lloyd Eastin at the July 1971 graduation ceremony. Sarah was the 4,000th graduate of the School of Nursing and Michael was the first male graduate. Michael passed away in 2017. Last fall Sarah became our 95th Sustaining Member.

Individual Scholarship Funds

(minimum \$500 donation)

The River Oaks Hospital Scholarship

Louisiana Organization for Associate Degree of Nursing (LOADN) Scholarship

Marie Gaudet Beaulieu '46 Scholarship
Kay Beaulieu Kenney '76

Margaret Robichaux Elliott '49 Scholarship

Patricia Haggerty Horn '50 Scholarship
Estate of Patricia Haggerty Horn '50

Sydney Wood Womack '57 Scholarship

Suzy Hooks Andry '59 Scholarship
Doris Tucker Burvant '60 Scholarship
Dr. Maxine Blackmon Jones '59

The Class of 9-11-64 Scholarship
Geraldine "Gerry" Bourgeois Daigle '64

Janie "Trudy" Carrier Lefort '70 Scholarship

Linda Grant MacLachlan '78 Scholarship

Joycelyn Gondolfo Jeansonne '78
Scholarship - Kevin Jeansonne MD

Sister Camilla Gaudin, D.C. Scholarship
Mary Smith Singletary '49
Saundra Owens Robert '56 ❖

2019 Charity Alumni Fall Breakfast

presents

*Indiana Jones
and the*

*Mystery
of the*

Lost Nurse's Cap

Saturday, Sept. 28

At The Ridgeway, 2431 Metairie Road

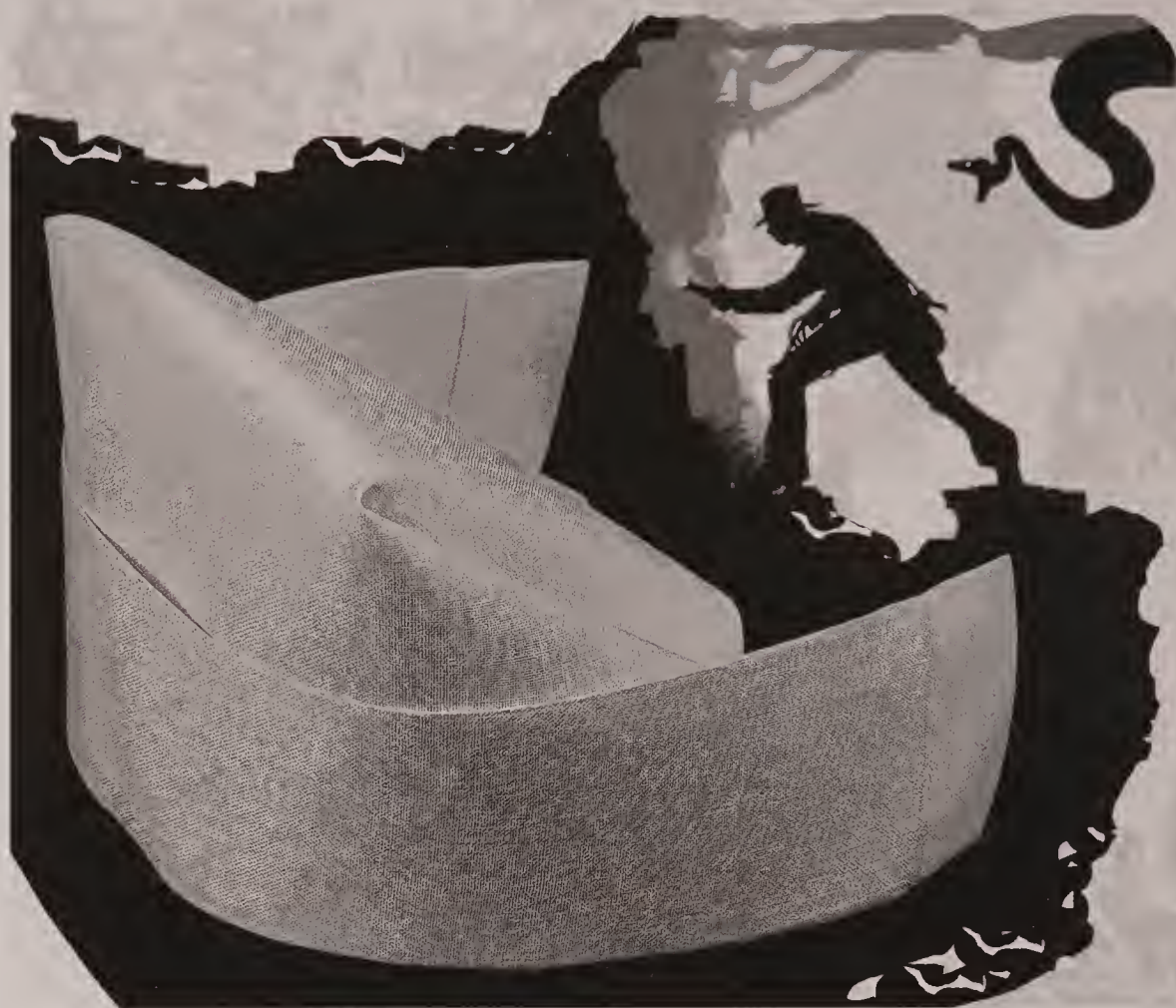
Metairie Road at Ridgeway Drive, between Bonnabel and Causeway
(Plenty of free parking around the building and directly across Ridgeway Drive)

*In Indiana Jones' latest adventure,
he is searching forbidden jungles
for that most elusive of artifacts:
The Nurse's Cap!*

*Join us as we ponder the mystery of where
those caps went! Wear your fedora or
your safari gear - or come as you are!*

Menu: Eggs Benedict, Fruit Salad,
Breakfast Pastries, Coffee, Tea and Juice

Registration and cash bar open at 9:30am,
Breakfast served at 10:30am.



*Great food, great friends &
great memories, plus souvenirs, door prizes,
amazing raffles (Could there be a nurse's cap
among those treasures???)...and much more!*

**Please purchase your tickets by
Sept. 20 to guarantee your seating!**

Use the form on page 23 and mail your check for
\$40 per ticket to: CHSN Alumni Association,
Delgado Charity School of Nursing,
450 S. Claiborne Ave, New Orleans, LA 70112
Or purchase on our website:
www.CharityAlumni.org

You can use this form...

Or visit our website: www.CharityAlumni.org

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY!

Name: _____ Class: _____
First name Maiden (or Graduation name if different from current name) Last name

Street Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ E-Mail: _____

☐ I want to attend the Alumni Breakfast on Sept. 28



Reserve for me: How many? _____ Breakfast(s) @\$40 each...\$ _____

Bringing a Guest? Please give us the name for their nametag:

PLEASE make your reservation by September 20 to guarantee seating!

Please reserve by the deadline! We need to know how many people to expect because we have to pay in advance for the correct number of attendees.

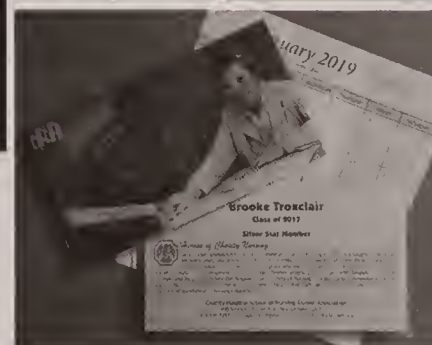
☐ I want to pay my Annual Membership Dues:

- ☐ \$15 Regular Membership
- ☐ \$25 Blue Ribbon Membership*
- ☐ \$50 Silver Star Membership*
- ☐ \$100 Sister Stanislaus Membership*

or ☐ Sustaining Membership: a one-time gift of \$500 (and never pay dues again).*

*Members at the \$25 level or above, please select your choice of:

- ☐ Personalized CHSNAA 2019-20 pocket calendar
- ☐ Charity pocket notepad
- ☐ Vintage postcard of the old Charity Dorm
- ☐ No gift, please.



☐ I want to make a donation to the:

Art & Archives Preservation Fund..... \$ _____
 CASN Convention Travel Fund \$ _____
 Scholarship Fund..... \$ _____
 Sister Stanislaus Gardening Fund..... \$ _____
 Student Emergency Assistance Fund..... \$ _____
 Other: _____ \$ _____

Mail this form with your check to: CHSN Alumni Association,
 Delgado Charity School of Nursing, 450 S. Claiborne Ave, New Orleans, LA 70112



Charity Hospital School of Nursing
ALUMNI ASSOCIATION
Delgado Charity School of Nursing
450 South Claiborne Avenue
New Orleans, Louisiana 70112

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

www.CharityAlumni.org chsnaaoffice@gmail.com Facebook: Charity Alumni NOLA



Fall Alumni Breakfast
Saturday, September 28
Get your tickets for this adventure!
See Page 22.

What is that number after my name?

The number immediately after your last name on your mailing label indicates the year your membership expires. For example, “Jane Jones 2019” means your membership expires at the end of 2019. You are current, but you may want to consider renewing your membership now for 2020.

If your label has a “0” or a year earlier than 2019 (such as “2016”), you are overdue! Please join or renew your membership now.

If the numbers on your label are 9999, 8888 or 7777, you are in a specialized membership category (Lifetime, Sustaining or Friend) and you do NOT need to renew your membership, but we do appreciate your donations!

If you have any questions about your membership, call or email the Alumni office. ❖



Charity Hospital School of Nursing & Charity School of Nursing

Alumni News

Winter 2019

Charity School of Nursing, 450 South Claiborne Avenue, New Orleans, Louisiana 70112

Alumni Office 504-571-1395 chsnaaoffice@gmail.com www.CharityAlumni.org Facebook: Charity Alumni NOLA

From the President

By Patrick Brady '83

The end of the year - time for closure, and for new beginnings! At Charity, the semester has ended with the joyous celebration of Pinning and the solemn excitement of graduation. But in January, everyone will hit the ground running as students return, advancing to their next level in the nursing school adventure!

For the Alumni, the fall was a busy time. Things did not stop once the September Breakfast was over! In December, we served coffee and muffins to the seniors during their three-day NCLEX review, gave out their new membership cards, and welcomed them to the Alumni Association! Thanks to alums and faculty (current and retired) who helped serve: **Ursula Allain '65, Mary Trosclair '73, Joan Hodge '75, Charlene Berger '79, Jenn Garnand '11, Angele Rains '18, and Susan Schaff.**

Next, there were scholarship interviews - a two-day marathon for our Scholarship Committee: **Ursula Allain '65, Joycelyn Jeansonne '78, and Charlene Berger '79.** We had 36 applicants and, as usual, they are amazing! There are some tough selections to be made. Thanks to all the faculty who write so many letters of recommendation - those letters are such an important part of the committee's decision-making.

A Surprising Gift

Earlier this fall, we received a startling piece of news. **Rose Ella Chenevert Miller '58**, who passed away in 2018, had made the Alumni Association the beneficiary of her trust. The bequest included approximately \$100,000 plus her house in New Roads, Louisiana. To say we were surprised by this gift is an understatement. We were stunned! We were also humbled and honored that



Left to right, Alumni President Patrick "Indiana" Brady '83 and Secretary Joycelyn Jeansonne '78 at the Alumni Breakfast in September.

Rose Ella chose to dedicate her estate to provide for Charity's students and its legacy.

A Plan of Action

In consultation with Rose Ella's executor and family, we decided to do two things: First, create an Endowed Scholarship in Rose Ella's name with \$30,000 (to be administered by the Delgado Foundation, and matched by the Louisiana Board of Regents, thus doubling the funds) to provide scholarships to Charity nursing students for generations to come. Second, provide funding for a state-of-the-art Skills Lab in the

new building, to be named in Rose Ella's honor.

The remaining funds will be used to create a **Rose Ella Chenevert Miller Scholarship Fund**, administered by the Alumni Association, to provide scholarships for Charity students until the Endowment has grown sufficiently for its interest and dividends to fund scholarships each semester.

A Special Legacy

We had the pleasure recently of having lunch with Rose Ella's sister Judy and brother-in-law Mitch, her executor and trustee, and they shared many memories. "Nursing was her life," said Judy. (You can read more about Rose Ella on page 17.) Now, Rose Ella's bequest will support nursing education while helping Charity students achieve their dreams.

We never really realize the impact that our Alumni Association has. The scholarships and awards we give to outstanding students (over \$19,000 in 2019), the Emergency Assistance grants, and other support - we usually think of these monetary contributions as helping students advance, continue, and complete the program. What we often do not think about is how our alumni's →

generosity benefits the public – the people of our state who seek quality healthcare. Think about the number of nurses that we assist to enter the workforce and provide direct patient care. Always devoted to nursing and her patients, I think that's what Rose Ella was thinking about when she made this bequest. We know she loved Charity, but she had a goal bigger than her beloved nursing school.

Your donations, large and small, make a difference for our students, but also make a difference in our community. We appreciate all of you who make it possible for us to do what we do. YOU make the difference every day.

Best wishes for a healthy and happy new year! ❖

Dean's Report

By Cheryl E. Myers, PhD, RN

Executive Dean CSN Campus/Dean of Nursing

2020! Entering the second decade of the 21st century! Simply amazing that time goes by so quickly and things change, yet stay the same. While we have seen many changes in our curriculum over the last decade, the faculty's dedication, the students' hard work and the success of our graduates remains the same.

Enrollment is strong with 744 RN and 96 LPN students this past semester. Our December 2018 and May 2019 classes had a 95% NCLEX-RN pass rate, and a 100% job placement rate!

Our graduating class of December 2019 is 106 students. We are proud to recognize the following recipients of graduation awards, which were presented at the Pinning on December 16:

Honor Pin and Highest GPA - **Allison Solino**

Award of Distinction - **Gina Galliano**

Sister Stanislaus Malone Award - **Roberta Ogborn**

Sister Blanche McDonnell Award - **Lisa Amos**

Margaret Palmisano Alumni Award - **Gary Pierce**

NODNA Leadership Award - **Laurie Siekkinen**

We are proud of their accomplishments and know they will continue to carry the torch of the Charity legacy.

New Chancellor

In July of this year, **Dr. Larissa Littleton-Steib** was appointed Chancellor of Delgado Community College. Dr. Steib previously served as Chancellor of Baton Rouge Community College, and prior to that appointment held various roles at Delgado, including Executive Dean of the West Bank Campus and Vice Chancellor for Workforce Development. She is from New Orleans, and we are glad to have her back home!

New Building

Planning for our new building continues. As I have previously shared, the College will have \$35 million available from a bond issue to establish a new Nursing and Allied Health campus in the Biomedical District in downtown New Orleans.

The old LSU Medical School building at 1542 Tulane Avenue (next door to Big Charity) has been selected as the site, and it will be renovated into a state-of-the-art facility. We are hoping construction will begin sometime in 2020. Keep your fingers crossed!

The \$35 million should take care of the basics, but additional funding will be needed for specialized facilities and equipment. We are thrilled to know that the Charity Alumni are already making plans to help us provide the instructional opportunities and high-tech tools that have become the standard for nursing education. The dedication of the extraordinary gift from the estate of **Rose Ella Chenevert Miller '58** toward a Skills Lab will allow us to continue our leadership in nursing education.

The interaction and synergy that will be created by this new building will impact the way our program is delivered for the next generation of Charity nurses. We can't wait to get started!

Student Activities

Our CASN students continue to uphold the Charity reputation for leadership. Twelve students attended the recent LASN convention in Lafayette. The group received the Best Overall Scrapbook Award (Kudos to **Kokoro Schwartz**, Level 2!) and **Dereck Williams**, a Level 1 student, was elected to the LASN Board in the fundraising position. They are already looking forward to the National Student Nurses Association Convention this spring.

CASN and Spectrum continue their involvement in the New Orleans community, and SAC members continue to tutor their schoolmates - each group giving a helping hand to others - in the Charity tradition!

Scholarships

Your support of the current students through your generous scholarship donations is an integral component of their success and we appreciate the opportunities you are providing every day for our students to achieve their dream of becoming Charity graduates.

Along with the Skills Lab, Rose Ella Miller bequeathed funding for an Endowed Scholarship. In addition, this summer, the late **Patricia Horn '50** bequeathed funds for her own Endowed Scholarship, and **Kay Kenney '76** made a gift to establish an Endowed Scholarship in memory of her mother **Marie Gaudet Beaulieu '46**. A HUGE thank you to each of them! That makes seven Endowed Scholarships created by Charity Alumni since 2016!

All these endowment gifts are matched by the Louisiana Board of Regents to double the funds, creating scholarships that will continue to assist Charity Nursing students indefinitely! It is this continuing commitment from our graduates that reaffirms that the spirit of Charity will live on!

Wishing you a safe and peaceful holiday season and a new decade full of promise! ❖

In Search of Ancient Artifacts

By Joycelyn Jeansonne '78

Over 160 intrepid alumni gathered to solve the Mystery of the Lost Nurse's Cap at the Annual Breakfast Meeting on September 28. There were plenty of those old nursing artifacts to be found at the Ridgeway of Old Metairie, including a Charity Cap raffle and centerpieces of miniature nurse's caps on leafy jungle pedestals. We were festive in camoflage and animal prints, as well as caps and safari hats!

President **Patrick "Indiana" Brady '83**, looking particularly raffish in fedora and entwined with a large rubber snake, welcomed the alumni, guests and students in attendance. The blessing was given by **Jenn Garnand '11** (read it on page 12), and the hungry adventure-seekers nipped into Eggs Benedict and pastries.

Homecoming on Horizon

Patrick announced that Homecoming will be held October 17 and 18, 2020. For those of you who have never experienced Homecoming, it's pretty awesome! For 2020, there will be an event at the school on Saturday morning we're calling



Top to bottom, left to right: Charlene Berger '79 and Vivian Manes '70; Betty Carter '81 and Sharon Burel '80; the Class of 1969 celebrates their fifty-year anniversary.

"Ain't Dere No More." On Saturday night we're remembering the old dorm with a Pajama Party! And on Sunday morning there will be a brunch at the Audubon Tea Room.

We are hoping to arrange for tours of the new building, and the old dorm – and lots more exciting stuff! All the details will be in the *White Cap* in the spring. So start thinking about getting your class together!

Endowments

Patrick announced that we have received three new endowed scholarships this summer! He tipped his hat to **Kay Beaulieu Kenney '76**, who was in attendance, and shared that she had

established an endowed scholarship in memory of her mother **Marie Gaudet Beaulieu '46**, who passed away in August 2018.

The other two recently endowed funds were created by bequests from **Patricia Horn '50** and **Rose Ella Chenevert Miller '58**.

Patrick also recognized endowment donors **Rose Jeanne Buccola '49**, who was at the Breakfast, and

Jim and Joyce Bonaventure Leissner '57 who had planned to attend but, sadly, were unable to make it. →





Left to right, top to bottom: Bridget Taylor '74, Cynthia Sartin '77 and Joyce Pierre '75; Kay Kenney '76, Gerry Daigle '64 and Charlotte Guinn '64; Janette Forsythe '64, Marilee Phillips '64 and Margaret Cutrer '64; Jordan Fontenelle '16

and his mother Mary Fontenelle '86; Dale Eppling '68, Elren Waddell '73 and Sandra Marino '68; Rose Jeanne Buccola '49 and Mary Singletary '49; 1974 classmates Olander Holloway, Mary Jean Southerland, Mary Jo Johnson, Charlene Persich, Gretchen Broome-Moten and Christina Higdon.



School News

Dr. Cheryl Myers, Dean of the School of Nursing, was in Puerto Rico to do an accreditation site visit, but you can read her report on page 2.

Class Reunions

The Roll Call of Classes ran the gamut from the Class of 1942 (we are always so delighted to see **Elizabeth Knight Vanderwall '42**) right up to graduates of Spring 2019!

Twenty-five members of the **Class of 1969** celebrated their 50-Year Anniversary in rousing fashion! They made a class donation of over \$200 to the Student



Emergency Fund. Silver Anniversary Certificates were presented to the class members in attendance. **Patricia Carreras Pankey '69** brought some very special artifacts to donate to the Alumni Association archives: a framed **1917 Class** photo - which was her grandmother **Elizabeth Pickett Hooper's** class - as well as her grandmother's framed 1917 diploma!

The **Class of 1964** was celebrating 55 years with 18 in attendance! **Judith Wellman Quigley '64** did an amazing job of getting her classmates together, and made a very generous donation of \$1,000 for the Class of '64 Scholarship in memory of all their deceased classmates.

The **Class of 1968** still had enthusiasm to spare from their reunion last year and had eleven in attendance. There were also students, faculty, friends and family - including Alumni mothers and children, Alumni siblings (and twins!) and Alumni spouses.

Raffles & Drawings

A vintage Charity nurse's cap was the star of the raffle table. **Patricia Pankey '69** was the happy winner! **Kathy Hug '65** donated another framed and beautifully cross-stitched Charity Pin piece. It was won by a thrilled **Dianne Simms Hughes '95**. Kathy has already whipped up a special new design to raffle at Homecoming, so we have a lot to look forward to!!

The 50/50 drawing collected \$568 with \$284 going to the winner, Shelby Gai, the guest of **Michelle Bauer '01**. A Massage Envy gift card and goody basket was won by **Mary Smith Singletary '49**.

Peggy Begnaud Johns '63 once again donated her unique hand-knitted items, adding real excitement to the door prize drawings as winners pulled scarves and hoods of all colors and designs from their gift bags! Souvenirs included mugs featuring the Charity Cap - they sold out so quickly we are ordering many more for Homecoming!

Special Thanks

Patrick announced that he wanted to recognize two ladies who do so much to run the Alumni Association. He asked **Lista Hank '97**, our Executive Director, and **Ursula Allain '65**, our Treasurer, to come forward so he could present them with flowers. They received a standing ovation with applause from the assembled alumni!! The flowers were provided by an anonymous donor (but we know it was **Beverly Poche Chapoton '67**. Thank you, Bev!).

Patrick concluded by thanking all alumni for dues and donations, "You allow us to do everything we do!!" He gave us all a round of →



Top to bottom, left to right: Patricia Pankey '69 holds her grandmother's class photo from 1917; Patrick, Lista Hank '97 and Ursula Allain '65; (back row) Brittany Hale '17, Peggy Johns '63, Maureen McDonald '62, (front row) Kelly Guidry '99, Trenese Ennis '00 and Dionne Hughes '95.



applause, and we all joined in with **Cindy Beniger '68** and **Sandra Hintz '68** to sing our beloved Alma Mater!

Since we will not be having a Spring Luncheon in 2020, Patrick also suggested that everyone get their hugs and kisses to hold until October 2020 - so hugs and kisses to all until we see you at Homecoming!!! ❖



Left to right, top to bottom: Beverly Chapoton '67, Patty Finan '67 and Evelyn McNeil '67; Rosalie Gonzales '78, Ellarea Farwell '69 and Carol Gonzales '80; Gail Kelley '69 and Rae Ann Deroche '84; Carolyn Reich '55 and Gloria Levi '55; Suzy Andry '59 and Charlotte Arras '71; Ross Cunningham '84 and his wife Aline; Malinda Schulz-Ferrell '89 and Doris Burvant '60; Carol Saltz '68 and Betty Hebert '68; students Kokoro Schwartz, Level 3, and Laurie Siekkinen, Level 4.



When I Grow Up

By Laurie J. Siekkinen, December 2019



What's the big question every child gets asked? ...“What do you want to be when you grow up?” The answers vary from lawyer, dancer, singer, teacher, pilot, doctor, and even nurse.

My answer was always the same, I wanted to be a teacher. Never in my wildest dreams did I ever expect to be what I am today.

As a young girl, I was afraid of doctors and nurses. Needles were my biggest fear. I remember sitting in the doctor's office with my mom. The doctor would wear a dress shirt with a tie, a starched white lab coat, and dress shoes. His shoes would make the clickity clack sound with each step so you could tell where he was at any given moment in the office. While waiting for the doctor and having my mom try to distract me from what was about to happen, I would sweat, my heart would race and feel like it was beating out of my chest. I experienced intense fear. I trembled.

I was easy-going, strong, independent, and overall a happy child. That is until someone came at me with a needle. *Clickity clack, clickity clack, whoosh.* The doctor would swing the door open just like Kraemer from Seinfeld. Where can I run? Where can I hide? There's no where to go. Fight or flight kicks in and I kick out. Mind you, I was not a violent child. *But don't come at me with that needle, man!!*

My mom tries to hold me down. I kick, hit, scream, cry. I sound like a possessed person with an exorcist trying to get my demons out. Here he comes with that needle, *oh my God!!!* I'm the Tasmanian devil from Looney Toons. You're not going to get me! And then *wham....* Everything and everyone goes still and quiet.

What just happened? He shakes his head and says, “Sorry about that. I have to go get another one.” The doctor gave my mom the shot that was intended for me.

Oh no!! I'm a goner. He leaves the room, *clickity clack, clickity clack* and then he's back with a new needle. He even brought in reinforcements to help. Great!!! Here we go again! It takes a few moments but I was overpowered. Mom and the staff held me down while the evil doctor stuck me with that darn needle. *I died!!* not really, but I was sure mad as hell.

That experience was repeated over and over again throughout the years (with the exception of my mom taking the hit for me). I was never ok with seeing the doctor or getting shots. I never outgrew that fear. To this

day, I am afraid of needles. I could never give shots or work with doctors. I could never be a nurse.

Have you ever heard the saying, “Never say never”? There's so much more to nursing than giving injections or doing things that make the patient uncomfortable. Healing comes in many ways.

My family and I were present when my brother died. He went to the ER with complaints of wheezing, coughing and weakness. He was diagnosed with bronchitis and admitted. We thought for sure that he would be treated and discharged. After all, he was a young and healthy twenty-two-year-old.

He progressively got worse and was then diagnosed with pneumonia and acute respiratory distress syndrome. He was allergic to many antibiotics and his treatment was limited. I remember how he was upgraded to critical care one day and then downgraded to a regular room the next. We really thought he was out of the woods and would be ok. His lung collapsed and a chest tube was placed. He was upgraded back to critical care.

My brother told my mom that he saw himself in a coffin and, of course, no mother wants to think of their child dying. His health status kept switching back and forth and we practically lived at the hospital for two weeks. Mom was an emotional mess, full of worry and stress. This can't be the end for her baby boy. He progressively got worse and had to be intubated. A machine was now breathing for him. *So, what next?*

Visiting hours were limited and strictly enforced in ICU so we had to make the most of it. We even celebrated my son's 4th birthday in the hospital waiting room.

When walking into my brother's hospital room to visit, it was difficult to ignore all the machines that were constantly beeping. Seeing a tube taped to his mouth and knowing it was keeping him alive was scary. Multiple IV's with fluids and medications were infusing. A foley was in place as well. He couldn't speak but he showed expression with his big beautiful blue eyes and holding our hands. He sometimes looked afraid with tears running out of the corners of his eyes. Yet other times he looked at peace.

His lung collapsed again with the chest tube in place. Not long after, his other lung collapsed. His body couldn't take anymore so he left this world peacefully.

We all handle grief in our own way just as healing takes place differently in each individual. My healing began when the nurse came in the room to disconnect him from all his lines and she allowed me to stay in there with him and even assist. All I knew was that I wanted him to be free from the things tying him to the hospital bed. I wanted the peace of knowing he was completely free. Healing comes in many ways.

My husband's grandmother came to live with us the last months of her life. She was so full of love and such a joy. I had a 10-month old at the time and looking back, I don't know how I managed. But you do what needs →

to be done when it needs to be done and you survive.

She was wheelchair bound and I got her up and dressed in the mornings, assisted her in the bathroom anytime she needed to go. I bathed her, prepared her food, and put her to bed at night. She was so appreciative of everything we did for her and she adored my little one and called him her walking doll.

Some of my fondest memories were during our potty times. You know that's a very personal thing to have someone bathe you or wipe your bottom so we made the most of it. You know how people say, "Sometimes you gotta laugh to keep from crying?" Well, we laughed a lot. Every time she would sit on the potty, she would toot before peeing. She would giggle and tell me, *You can't pee unless you put in the passcode first*. When I had to bend over to pull her pants up, I would tell her to be sure not to whisper any passcodes in my ear. She would get to laughing so hard that she would pass even more gas and then have to sit back down to keep from falling.

My husband could hear us laughing and wondered what we could possibly be laughing at. He said he never knew his grandma was such a comedian.

Grandma and I had a routine that included brushing her teeth, getting a bath and fixing her hair daily. I couldn't forget her Oil of Olay lotion on her face. She wanted her face lotion to be rubbed in with an extra layer of it sitting there so you could see the white goop all over. Have you ever buttered rolls? You know how some butter melts into the bread when it's warm and some butter sits caked on top of the bread? Grandma's face looked like that. Some was absorbed while the rest sat caked on top. There must be something to it since she had the most beautiful skin.

One day, Grandma told me to take her to the hospital. She said she wasn't feeling well. She had no fever, cough, or anything that indicated she was not well but we took her to the ER. She was admitted with pneumonia.

I remember the ER doctor asking me where she lived and who took care of her. He couldn't believe how well taken care of she looked. I asked what he meant and he answered by saying that Grandma was clean and smelled good. He said many of the elderly are brought in soaked in urine and feces, dirty, no bath, disheveled, with bed sores and neglected. I was shocked by that and couldn't imagine ever being so thoughtless with Grandma.

Nursing is more than giving injections and completing tasks. It is also showing love and respect in various ways.

Grandma was discharged home and soon after she had a stroke. I cried with my husband thinking she was just giving up because she wouldn't eat. I didn't understand the dying process at the time.

Grandma was 93-years-old and she was tired.

Hospice became involved with her care. The last days of her life were filled with family visits and lots of reminiscing. My home was a constant revolving door and everyone was welcome to come and go at any time. It was so pleasant and peaceful. One evening while everyone was outside preparing to boil crawfish, I sat with Grandma. She hadn't responded to any of us in days but I knew she could hear me. I told her that if she could ever do anything for me that I wanted her to help the guardian angels and watch over my son. She squeezed my hand and I cried. While holding her hand, I began singing *Amazing Grace* and that's when she took her last breath. She was finally at peace. The family was also at peace with her sweet and loving departure. Healing comes in many ways.

Even though I am afraid of needles, I learned that nursing is more than that. Nursing is showing love, respect, and compassion. Nursing isn't for the weak. Nursing is doing what is right and fighting for your patient. Nursing is more than taking care of your patient's basic needs. Nursing is holding the hand of the dying. It's crying with the family and recognizing their loss and grief.

Nursing is jumping for joy and celebrating every milestone of someone's progress and recovery. Nursing is bearing your heart and soul and being strong enough to handle each outcome. Nursing is knowing you did everything you could for your patients and their families from start to finish.

So, what do I want to be when I grow up? I want to be someone that makes a difference in someone else's life. I want to be a lawyer that fights and advocates for my patient. I want to be a dancer that celebrates life and dances for joy when my patient is doing well. I want to be a singer that calms, soothes and relaxes my patient when they are anxious. I want to be a teacher that teaches the patient and their caregivers how to manage their care. I want to be a pilot that navigates around obstacles and aims

for the best possible outcomes. I want to be a doctor that collaborates with the nurse to provide the best care we can give. I want to be a healer.

I can admit when I am wrong. I have learned it's ok to have fear because fear motivates me to take action when needed, and to cry does not mean I am weak. Could I ever be a nurse?? As Stan Lee wrote, "With great power comes great responsibility." Well Stan, I accept that responsibility.

I will not be just a nurse, I will be a DAMN GOOD NURSE!! I don't want to be known only as a great nurse. I want to be remembered as a nurse that does great things. ❖



Laurie Siekkinen, Class of December 2019

Alumni Notes

Nineteen Charity alumni and faculty members were among the Great 100 Nurses honorees for 2019:

Denise Abadie '93
 Arie Anderson '11
 Brandy Barbarin '04, faculty
 Miguel Behrhorst '06
 Margo Birdlow '03
 Laura Braud '14
 Sharon Bural '80
 Kimberly Dunn '14
 Beatrice Eweni, faculty
 Jeanne Feltey '98
 Carolyn Gaude '10
 Dania Hernandez-Flores, faculty
 Pandora Joseph '10
 Bridgette Johnson-Medley '95, faculty
 Judith Montello '78
 Laura Tassin '07
 Henrietta Walton-Nunez, faculty
 Norris Warner '81
 Nikeisha Moore Washington '06



These exemplary nurses were selected for the honor based on their concern for humanity, their contribution to nursing, and their mentoring of others. The award celebration was held in October.

Angela Paige Jackson '95 (Spring, TX): "I'm a proud Charity School of Nursing 1995 grad. I was born at 'Big C.' Mom worked there for 35+ years, my son was born there, and my career began there. I finally gathered the strength to watch the *Big Charity* film (I tried several times after Katrina and couldn't). Through many tears, my heart swelled, and it bursts with pride knowing that I could relate to the discussions about those hallowed halls.... the energy, the miracles, the sense of family. I'm SO HAPPY I found the Charity Alumni website!!!"

Veronica O'Donnell Els '75 (Lafayette, LA): "Our group of 1975 CHSN graduates started having gatherings in the late nineties. In the last three years we have met regularly either in Baton Rouge or Lafayette, and enjoy a yearly beach trip in September. Our group is expanding as people hear about it. We started with the small town girls from South Louisiana who naturally migrated toward each other in school. We are all loyal friends who laugh, play and pray

together and support each other through the tough times in life. We call ourselves *The Charity Cases!*"

The "Charity Cases" pictured (*in photo below, left to right*) are: **Jan Breaux Samson, Shonna Granger Gott, Genie LeBlanc Woodring, Claudia Launey Ortego, Julie Munster Joyce, Anita Barras Landry, Maureen Gray Guevara, Donna Blanchard Landry, Roxanne Fuselier Cali, Kathy Ibert Imel, and Ronnie O'Donnell Els.** Missing from the photo is **Donna Due Bordelon, Carolyn "Tutti" Chauvin Hubbell and Kay Landry '77.**

Maxine Brower '54 (Napoleonville, LA) shipped her 1952, 1953 and 1954 yearbooks to us for the archives.

Anne Blinn Faist '54 (Belleville, IL) sent us generous donations to our Student Emergency Assistance Fund and the CASN Convention Travel Fund, and wrote to say, "I love the newsletters and I plan to attend the 2020 Homecoming!"

Anne Langston Lind '51 (Irving, TX) sent us several yearbooks from the time she was on the faculty at the School of Nursing in the 1960s. "These are some yearbooks that were asked for in *The White Cap*. I hope they are helpful."

Joy Clark emailed us to ask about her grandmother: "My grandmother was a student nurse on the 1930 Census. Are there any pictures or records of her time there? Her name was Nell Mary Hargus. Her birthday is May 3, 1910. →

The Class of 1975 "Charity Cases" gather in 2019





Nell passed away January 2, 1998. I do genealogy for our family and Nell's eldest and youngest daughters are still alive. If there is any information or advice on how I could obtain records, etc? It would be greatly appreciated."

We were able to find the records of **Mary Nelle Hargis MacDonald '30** and a beautiful photo of Nell in her nurse's cap. She started at the

School of Nursing in 1927. There was even a letter from Nell requesting a replacement nursing pin and the school replying that the cost would be \$14.02 including tax and shipping!

We emailed everything to Joy, and she replied, "THANK YOU SO MUCH. I want to tell you that this is so so so WONDERFUL. I am literally crying tears of happiness. We have one picture of Nell and her husband because the rest were lost in a fire. I will be giving this to my mom and she will put it in a frame. THANK YOU. You have Blessed us so much." Joy also sent us their one photo. "Nell was 75 when this picture was taken in 1983. I also have a snapshot of her holding her namesake but it is too blurry to see her face. This is the only other picture we have. I thought I would share it with you. I know Nell is smiling in heaven."



Charity Yearbooks

Now it is as simple as going online when you want to see your yearbook! All of the Charity School of Nursing yearbooks are now available on **Internet Archive**, a non-profit online collection of books and historical material from libraries and other institutions all over the country. You can use it for free!

It's easy to find your yearbook. There is a link to the Internet Archive site on our website, **CharityAlumni.org** on the **FAQs and Links** page.

Or, on your web search engine, type in: **Internet Archive** (No "s" on the end!)

When that comes up, on the SEARCH ARCHIVES bar type in: **Charity Hospital**

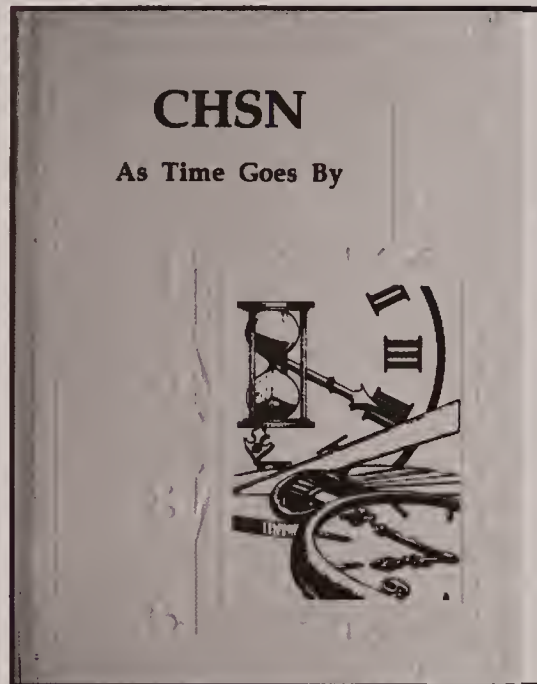
School of Nursing Alumni Association (Type the whole thing to avoid getting a bunch of other stuff.)

Our yearbooks will pop up! (Put it in your Bookmarks so you can get back easily.) There is a "SORT BY" bar, and just click on "TITLE" to get them in order by year.

Then click on the year you want.

You can flip through your yearbook page by page, zoom in, even download!

We have completed scanning all the yearbooks through 2004. We hope to add the Memory Books from 2005 to the present in early Spring 2020. Ultimately we hope to add all back issues of *The White*



Cap and the *Alumni News*, as well as other historical School of Nursing documents.

It's really fun to look through all the old books. Have a history adventure - the clothes, the activities! And the wonderful photos of Charity students in the hospital.

More than Yearbooks

Another neat thing to do in the Internet Archive is to search for "Charity Hospital Report." These are the Big Charity Hospital's annual reports to the State of Louisiana going back to 1842! Some are even in French! Very cool!

Good Home for Your Old Yearbooks

Downsizing or just trying to decrease the clutter? We will take your old yearbooks! We want to have several complete collections of old yearbooks in good condition for the archives and the school library.

We are particularly interested in any books from 1938 to 1961, 1965, 1968, 1978 and 1986. But we will take any Charity yearbook and, if we don't need it, we can pass it along to an alumni who wants it.

So if those yearbooks no longer "spark joy" sitting on your bookshelf, send them along to a happy place - knowing you can stroll down memory lane anytime online! ❖



The Great Hair-Bobbing Scandal of 1924

Cherie Barras emailed to ask about her grandmother **Pauline Hyver Yacich '25**. "We attended a reunion together during the early to mid-1990's. My grandmother was the oldest graduate at the reunion. I would love to know if there were any photos taken of her at the reunion. Are there yearbooks back from 1924 and 1925? We had several pictures of her taking care of 'her children' in Charity's TB ward during the 1950s and 1960s, but those photos were lost to Hurricane Betsy. Any suggestions or guidance is appreciated."

We don't have any yearbooks earlier than 1938, and we could not locate the other photos Cherie was looking for, but we suggested she check the *Times-Picayune* Historical Collection online.

Cherie replied, "I was able to access the *Times-Picayune* website using my N.O. library card. It was a bit tedious, but once I got in, it was fascinating. I actually found an article with a photo of my grandmother's graduating class. The photo is terrible quality, but the article was legible. Thank you again!"

We were able to find Pauline's school file, and discovered that Pauline must have been quite the pistol - she was kicked out of Charity for bobbing her hair!

Cherie responded to that news, "I'm laughing. My grandmother told us next to nothing about her nursing school times. One of the few things she did tell us was that she cut her hair, got suspended, and her mother had to beg to get her back in. Can you imagine being put out of school for cutting your hair?"

The *Times-Picayune* apparently found it amazing - and humorous - enough that in 1960 they published an article in their *Dixie Magazine* about the notorious 1924 scandal:

The fuss it caused, you'd think it was the worst crisis Charity hospital had ever faced. It started on a Sunday afternoon. The date was March 23, 1924. Twelve student nurses were hauled into the office of Sister Kostka, nurses' superior. The charge was serious. All twelve girls, it seems, had bobbed their hair. Penalty: indefinite suspension.

On Monday, newspapers got hold of the story and then the fur began to fly as fast as hair had. Statement followed statement as the battle raged. Other hospitals, unidentified doctors, department stores, Newcomb College and, yes, barbers joined in the chorus. Samples:

"Bobbed hair, flapperism and frivolity."

"Hair that is obviously bobbed does not go well with the dignity of the uniform."

"Patients cannot put faith in a short-haired girl. They think she looks too frivolous."



The Dixie Magazine of June 1960 published this photo of modern Charity students who had no apparent educational ill effects from their haircuts. Pictured left to right: Linda Megehee Benson '60, Judy Pettit '61 and Janet Weeks.

"It's her hair to do as she pleases. Bobbed hair's more sanitary, too."

The New Orleans Federation of Women's Clubs passed a resolution in favor of clemency for the bobbed dozen, but Charity Hospital officials were unmoved. Citing with dismay the fact that "bobbing parties were held in dormitories," they announced the girls would stay suspended and the rule forbidding student nurses to bob their hair would stand unchanged. (Girls whose hair was already bobbed could enter nurses' training, however.) - *Times-Picayune Dixie Magazine, June 19, 1960*

Apparently, at least some of the "bobbed dozen" were quietly reinstated because we are happy to say that the feisty - and fashionable - Pauline did indeed graduate in December 1925. ❖

Taking Note

By John R. Batty, RN, MSN

John is not an alum, but regularly attends our functions because he has so many friends among the Charity nurses. He worked in the Charity Hospital OR and psychiatric ward, and earned a master of science in nursing and healthcare system management from Loyola University in New Orleans. John is the author of Voices of Angels: Disaster Lessons from Katrina Nurses. The book examines the care provided to patients in the storm and evacuation. This article is about his experience of writing the book.

"I would never leave a patient alone. I would stay with them to the bitter end - for either of us," said the Charity nurse. Looking deeply into her eyes, I could feel the emotion and the power of her words and thoughts. I knew she was speaking straight from the heart. She kept talking and I kept writing. She was not trying to impress me, but was trying to tell the truth of her experience. At the end of

the day I had several pages of scribbled notes from another nurse who had stayed at their post during Hurricane Katrina.

The outpouring of honest, profound emotion from the survivor of a great disaster came to be a common experience in my research. The raw, emotional delivery shook me to my soul. Later that night, as I typed up my notes, I asked myself, *How did I get into this?*

A deep breath followed by a momentary reflection, and then the sound of Gail's voice came back to me. My faculty advisor, Dr. Gail Tumulty, and I had been following the same path. She had been interviewing her students who were nurses in New Orleans hospitals during Katrina. She had seen the same raw nerves and shattered souls. She had heard the words with the unusual power behind them. She was touched by their courage and strength. She was moved by their belief and the actions that distinguished them as angels on earth.

Gail used that same voice that I recognized from my Charity interview subjects. "We have to write a book about this - while the memory, the pain, and the actions are still fresh in the minds of the nurses who did not run away. I don't care about being remembered by history," she said. "What I care about is that the actions of brave nurses are not lost in the fog of history or, worse yet, rewritten by those who seek to twist reality."

We both understood that the power of the hurricane overcame the courage of the media. Although the flyovers and the small army of media people camped out on Canal Street tried to tell the story, we were both afraid they would be fundamentally flawed and insufficient. We both wanted the truth to be recorded.

After hearing nurse after nurse bear the same witness of the terrible events, I could not have agreed more. It seemed to me then, as it does today, that the sacrifices of brave nurses should not be tarnished by a writer who did not understand their passion. These brave souls sought no place in history. Their motivation was to care for patients under incredibly bad circumstances and bring them through alive. And that was their reward.

After six months of interviewing, researching and writing draft after draft, my capstone project was accepted, and I earned my master's degree. With another five years of interviewing more nurses, rewriting, enduring edit after edit, the book was finished. At least I thought the process was finished. The person who said that writing a book and getting it published is like making sausage certainly knew what they were talking about.

Of course, now it is easy to say that I'm glad I did it. But somehow those words seem hollow and lame compared to the nurses who saw the water rise and their hopes of returning home shattered. But I was there when the memories came pouring out. I listened. I wrote the words they said, and saw the truth through to the end. ❖



September 2019 Alumni Breakfast Blessing

What is the Search?

By Jenn Garnand '11

We bless this food that we are about to share and the company in which we share it.

Let us begin our time together today in the spirit of Charity....

"You must go on adventures to find out where you truly belong." – Sue Fitzmaurice

What IS the search for the elusive nurse's cap?

So many nurses who have gone before us have worked to break ground on the 'why' and 'how' of this call to service.

This search is full of adventure. And isn't life the same way?

The journey is endless, full of obstacles, trials and questions surrounding meaning and purpose. We all hope for things to go smoothly and for smooth to feel easy, but it seems that easy doesn't teach us anything. It's truly not about the destination, but about the things we learn about ourselves and overcome along the way.

"Nursing is not one thing, that's why it's hard to get at. It is everything." - Christie Watson

So, the nurse's cap? The treasure we seek?

You see, we've already found it.

This treasure is present in the journey. It's here today. It's in difficult yesterday. And it's in overwhelming tomorrow. It's the amazing gift we are presented with each and every time we interact with a patient, family member or simply another human being. The experience they have with us in that very moment could be the pivotal experience that causes them to see the world differently moving forward.

So continue on your adventure. Live it, love it and learn from it. But remember, you're right where you belong. This journey is yours.

"Wherever your heart is, there you will find your treasure." – Paulo Coelho

Amen. ❖

Scholarships & Awards

In September, the Alumni Association presented \$10,500 in scholarships and awards to twenty-two Charity nursing students. All were made possible by the generous gifts from Charity alumni, friends, family and faculty - and one local hospital! Thank you to everyone who made donations, and congratulations to these outstanding student recipients (*left to right, top to bottom*):

Level 2

Carla Alexander,

Sister Camilla Gaudin, D.C., Scholarship;

Kiesha Brown, Margaret Robichaux Elliott '49 Scholarship;

Nina Schexnider, Sydney Wood Womack '57 Scholarship;

Kokoro Schwartz, Sister Blanche McDonnell Scholarship;

Doreall Jupiter, Class of 9/11/64 Scholarship;

Kenyatta Trim, River Oaks Hospital Scholarship.



Level 3

John Spooner, Hugh and Maria Garcia Roach '38 Scholarship;

Lindsay Allen-Ortega, Leona Krubbe Hilbert '46 Scholarship;

Tara Brown, Mary Ann Signorelli

Whynot '46 Scholarship.



Level 4

Ashley Davidson,

Joycelyn Jeansonne '78 Scholarship;

Allison Solino,

Nancy Carol Rodgers '83 Scholarship;

Gary Pierce, Sally Cooper '59 Scholarship;

Roberta Ogborn,

Marie Gaudet Beaulieu '46 Scholarship;

Maggie LeBlanc, James and Joyce

Bonaventure Leissner '57 Scholarship;

Laurie Siekkinen,

J. Stephen Hank Scholarship.



Level 4 Pin Awards

Jordon Delatte, Heber B. Dodson Jr. Pin Award;

Paige Moore, Kirk LeVasseur '79 Pin Award;

Sarah Desimone, Julia Spratt '61 Pin Award;

Brianna Sims, Carolyn Schwarz Myers Pin Award;

and (*not pictured*) **Lindsey McDaniel,**

Elva Elena Aleman Salas Pin Award.



The Federation of Professional Registered and Licensed Practical Nurses of Charity Hospital Awards were presented to **Brinley Newburn** in the RN Program and **Myisha Hill** in the PN Program. ❖

Goodbyes

Irma Schwartz Solomon '41: Irma was born in 1920. After graduating from Charity Hospital School of Nursing in 1941, she worked at Charity Hospital and in the surgery department at the Eye, Ear, Nose and Throat Hospital in New Orleans. She went on to spend the next 41 years of her career with the local OB/GYN group of Drs. Beacham, Beacham, Webster, Lawson, Jeanfreau and Waters. Irma passed away in November 2019.



Shirley Meaut Muhleisen '46: Shirley graduated from Charity in 1946. Following WWII, she served as a civilian nurse with the Occupational Armies in Japan. Upon returning to New Orleans, she worked at the VA Hospital. Later she taught biology at St. Joseph's Academy and served as a Eucharistic Minister on the chaplain's staff at Methodist Hospital. She passed away in October 2019 at the age of 95. Shirley's daughter Elizabeth wrote to say, "My mother treasured her time at Charity Hospital School of Nursing."

Marie Claire Holden Moore '47: Marie's daughter Anna Moore Granen sent us Marie's yearbooks and this note: "My mother died in 2008. She spoke warmly of her days at Charity and always said that a Charity nurse stood head and shoulders above any other nurse. In cleaning out several boxes I received when the estate was settled, I found her yearbooks from 1945, 1946 and her senior year 1947. I would like to donate these to the Alumni Association, so that this part of Charity Hospital School of Nursing is not lost."



Barbara Louise Iverson Berry '48: Barbara was born in Gretna in 1927. She received her nursing diploma from the Charity Hospital School of Nursing in 1948 and began her career as a staff nurse at the Veterans Administration Hospital in Alexandria. She later transferred to the VA Hospital in New Orleans to assume duties as an EENT Ward staff nurse, then as a charge nurse on the Tuberculosis Unit. In January of 1950 she left full-time nursing to start her family.

In 1960, Barbara returned to active practice as a pediatric charge nurse at St. Francis Cabrini Hospital in Alexandria where she later became Director of Nursing

Services in 1975. Huey P. Long Regional Medical Center in Pineville named Barbara as their Director of Nursing Services in 1981 where she administered all nursing department functions as well as Ambulance Service, Central Supply, Infection Control and Quality Assurance until her retirement from state service in 1991.

Barbara's nursing expertise was sought by others throughout her career. She served as a member of the Louisiana State Board of Nursing 1983-88. She served on the Louisiana College Department of Nursing Advisory Committee 1984-88, the LSUA Advisory Group for Nursing 1987-91, and the advisory board for Better Care Home Health 1992-2003. Barbara lectured nursing classes each semester at LSU-A on Joint Commission Accreditation 1981-91, and guest lectured nursing classes at Alcorn State University, and at the Alexandria campus of Northwestern State University. Additionally, she served on numerous occasions as a panel member at nursing symposiums, participated in community health fairs, and served as an observer for community disaster drills. In 2015 she moved to New Roads to be close to family. Barbara passed away on Saturday, October 12, 2019, at the age of 92.



Dorothy Irvine Cardell '48: Dorothy's daughter Kathy Kopta wrote to tell us, "My mother Dorothy Cardell passed away on June 8, 2019. I found her picture in your online yearbook archives in the 1948 yearbook as a graduating senior. Mom loved her time at Charity and enjoyed reminiscing about the wonderful experiences she had while she was there. She loved showing us all her pictures of herself and her many Charity friends in uniform."

Bernadine Blalock Toups '49: As a NICU nurse, Bernadine was a pioneer in her field caring for babies across New Orleans. She worked at Charity Hospital, Mercy Hospital, and Southern Baptist Hospital, from which she retired in 1999. She passed away in June 2019.

Mary Drake Rolling '51: Mary was born in Little Rock but, after graduating from Charity in 1951, she lived in Louisiana for over 75 years. Mary's nursing career spanned over 50 years: twenty years with the State of Louisiana and thirty years in nursing home care as a nurse, DON, and administrator.

Ruby Pinell Taylor '56: After graduating from Charity in 1956, Ruby worked at Shell Oil Company. She met her husband, an engineer, there in 1960. After retiring, they moved to Poncha Springs, Colorado, where Ruby served

as a town trustee and mayor for six years, and spent summers as a volunteer maintaining the Colorado Trail.

Marylou Charlotte Medlin '59: Marylou was a native of New Orleans and graduated in 1959 from Charity Hospital School of Nursing. She received her BSN from



Northwestern State University in 1965 and later her MSN from the University of Florida. Marylou worked as a Psychiatric Nurse at the VA Hospital in Little Rock, AK at St. Elizabeth's in Washington, DC before beginning her career at Charity Hospital in 1961.

She began teaching at Charity School of Nursing in 1966 and retired in 1997. Marylou

served as an assistant instructor and educational director at CHSN, teaching basics in nursing, medical-surgical nursing, and pharmacology.

For many years Marylou volunteered for the Charity Alumni Association, the WYES auction, the SPCA, and ARNO. Marylou loved animals, adopting many strays and often had a house full of dogs and cats. Marylou died peacefully in her home on October 28, 2019. She was 81 years old.

Genevie Rousse Byerly '62: Jeni was born in Galliano, Louisiana, and graduated from Charity in 1962. She worked in health care for 33 years, first as a public health nurse and then as a psychiatric nurse. Jeni passed away in November 2019 at the age of 79.

Leslie Bourgeois Ecuyer '87: Leslie's sister Lynn Hebert wrote to tell us, "My sister Leslie lived her lifelong dream of bringing babies into the world by working as a Labor



and Delivery Nurse at Charity Hospital, East Jefferson General Hospital, and many hospitals around the country. She worked as a travel nurse for the last 20 years of her life, and remarked time and again how her training at Charity School of Nursing and years of working at Charity Hospital prepared her for any and every circumstance she encountered throughout the country. She was so proud to be an alumni of Charity." ❖

In Memoriam

Nora Helen Jarveaux '34 (4/23/97)
 Helen Marie Arnoult Roy '36 (8/22/15)
 Irma Schwartz Solomon '41 (11/3/19)
 Shirley Meaut Muhleisen '46 (10/3/19)
 Barbara Louise Iverson Berry '48 (10/12/19)
 Dorothy Irvine Cardell '48 (6/8/19)
 Bernadine Blalock Touns '49 (6/19/19)
 Maudie Ellen Bates '50 (9/12/19)
 Mary Drake Rolling '51 (7/24/19)
 Jacobine Houlberg Hanewinkel '56 (6/16/19)
 Ruby Pinell Taylor '56 (8/20/19)
 Marylou Medlin '59 (10/28/19)
 Genevie Rousse Byerly '62 (11/2/19)
 Sylvia Obregon Moffitt '64 (5/15/19)
 Patricia Hebert Arceneaux '65 (7/11/19)
 Madeline Ledet Giroir '70 (11/22/19)
 Evann Tobias Johnson '72 (11/1/18)
 Leslie Ann Bourgeois Ecuyer '87 (10/15/18)
 Mary "Tootsie" Arnold Monnerjahn '92 (8/20/19)
 Wendy Elgiar Clesi '94 (6/1/19)
 Jennifer DeBlonde Jacob '05 (10/7/19)
 Sister Mary Paule Vardigan (11/13/19)

Endowed Scholarships

Our Endowed Scholarship Funds will provide financial assistance to Charity nursing students for generations to come. A minimum gift of \$10,000 is matched by the Louisiana Board of Regents. The funds are invested and administered by the Delgado Foundation.

These seven Endowed Funds have been established by our alumni and their families:

Hugh and Maria Garcia Roach '38 Scholarship

Marie Gaudet Beaulieu '46 Scholarship

Leona Kruebbe Hilbert '46
 and Dr. Gerard Hilbert Scholarship

Sister Laurentia Walsh D.C. Scholarship in memory of
 Victor and Rose Jeanne Buccola '49

Patricia Haggerty Horn '50 Scholarship

Joyce Bonaventure Leissner '57 and
 Jim Leissner Scholarship
 in memory of their children Nathan and Laura

Rose Ella Chenevert Miller '58 Scholarship ❖

A Gift from Granny, and Puzzling over the Caduceus

Yvonne McGaha '63 included us in an email to her classmates: "My granddaughter Paige was accepted into the LSU Nursing program. She began in the fall semester. I decided to pass on the legacy by gifting her with the Caduceus charm I received when I became a Charity RN.

"I took her to lunch and presented her with my charm. She was thrilled! She very much appreciated the sentiment and wears it on her charm bracelet.

"I showed her pictures of us in the dorm, and she loved seeing us in our slips, hair in rollers, drinking bottled cokes and smoking cigarettes. *Didn't you all know how bad it was for your health?* Ha, ha!! I also told her stories about the hospital that she was very surprised about. Separate wings for 'colored and white' and by sexes, the big glass IV bottles, etc. A lesson in Granny lore.

"I looked up the history of the Caduceus, and I was shocked to find out that it is not really the symbol of medicine. A rod with a single serpent is the correct symbol. It made my gift a little less sentimental to me, but not to her. I am pleased that she is happy."

We were intrigued by Yvonne's findings and did a little online research on the symbol ourselves. Here are a few fun things we gathered:

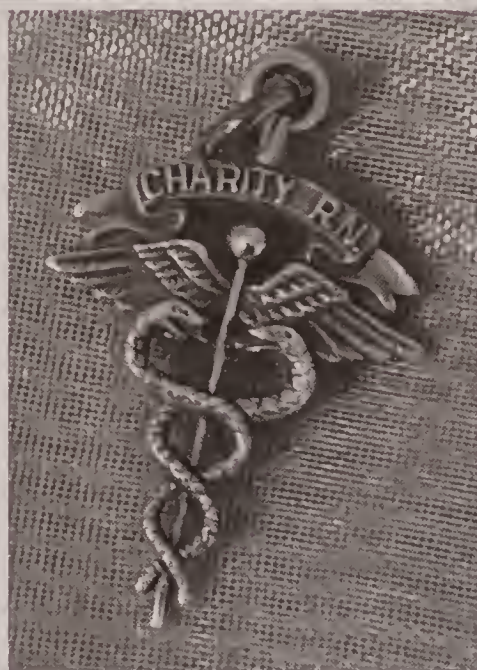


In ancient Greek mythology, Asclepius was the god of medicine and healing. (Among his daughters are Hygieia, the goddess of cleanliness, Iaso, the goddess of recuperation from illness, Aceso, goddess of the healing process, and Panacea, the goddess of universal remedy.) Asclepius was frequently represented dressed in a long cloak and carrying a simple staff with a single serpent coiled around it. This Staff of Asclepius (*left*) was the ancient Greek symbol associated with medicine. (There is a lot of speculation as to why snakes are associated with medicine, but that's another story).

The Caduceus, on the other hand, was traditionally associated with the Greek god Hermes, patron of travelers, trade, and negotiation.



Top, Yvonne McGaha '63, right, and her granddaughter Paige; below, Yvonne's Charity RN Caduceus charm.



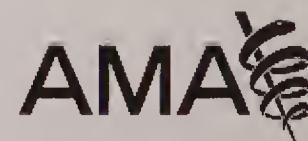
One source said the original Caduceus was an olive branch (representing peaceful negotiations, important for establishing trade relationships and traveling unaccompanied). Topped with two leafy shoots and decorated with garlands and ribbons, it was later interpreted to be two snakes entwining a wing-topped staff. But other sources site stories of Hermes negotiating a peaceful resolution between two fighting snakes. In this scenerio, the pair of wings at the top of the staff represented Hermes' speed.

Starting in the 16th century, the Caduceus of Hermes was widely used as a printers' mark, possibly because Hermes' Roman counterpart Mercury is associated with writing and eloquence, or perhaps because of his role as a messenger.

Roman messengers would wear the symbol like a white flag of truce to safely cross battlefields, whether because Hermes was a messenger or because he was associated with negotiation and peace. The Caduceus was also used as a symbol of neutrality in war, and stretcher-bearers

would display it to indicate their non-combatant status. This may partly explain why the U.S. Army Medical Corps adopted the symbol as their logo at the turn of the century.

The Caduceus became the more popular symbol of medicine in the United States, probably due to simple confusion between two symbols by American printers. The Caduceus was widely adopted by medical publishers in the U.S, and it became commonly connected with medicine and health care. Today, both symbols are used, but the Staff of Asclepius seems to be gaining popularity. The American Medical Association has adopted the Staff of Asclepius for its logo (*right*), as has the New England Journal of Medicine, and the World Health Organization.



So what of the Charity RN Caduceus, and the perplexing history of its symbolism?

We like the response from Yvonne's classmate **Leona Lee '63**: "Love the memories you shared with your granddaughter. I also googled Caduceus and was surprised to learn the origin. Doesn't matter to me. Still love it! To me it will always be a symbol of healing and represent our years at Charity." ❖

She Loved Nursing

After **Rose Ella Chenevert Miller '58** graduated from Charity, she worked for years in the premature baby intensive care unit. At that time it was a cutting-edge area of medicine, but not a surprising choice for Rose Ella.



Rose Ella grew up in Morganza, Louisiana, during World War II and the post-war years. She was the oldest daughter in a family of fourteen children. Her sister Judy, the twelfth sibling, says the family essentially spanned three generations. "Rose Ella

graduated from Charity the same year I was born," she notes. As is often the case with eldest girls in large, busy families, Rose Ella took on the role of mothering the younger kids. Nuturing was natural for her. She always stayed close to the younger members of the extended family, regularly having nieces and nephews over to her house for slumber parties even as she grew much older.

Marriage took Rose Ella to Ohio, and the couple adopted a baby boy. After her divorce, she returned to Louisiana, settling in New Roads where her parents had moved the family after Judy graduated from high school. She would remain there the rest of her life, raising her son as a single mother and becoming an active member of the community. (Her son tragically passed away within a year of Rose Ella's death.)

She joined the staff of the Pointe Coupee Parish General Hospital. She founded and edited the hospital's newsletter. She taught nursing at the local trade school, training many of those now working in the nursing profession in Pointe Coupee. After 50 years of nursing, Rose Ella was forced into retirement by Parkinson's disease in 2000.

Rose found solace and direction in her religion throughout her life, and wrote a devotional column for *The Pointe Coupee Banner* called "Sharing a Thought." The columns were short essays about everyday life, expressing her faith and citing the bible. In 2011, she collected the short essays into a book *Sharing a Thought with Lagniappe*.

Her essay, "Charity" mentions her nursing school experience and ponders the concept: "The word charity has been mistaken and rejected by proud persons...One of my patients told me he had refused help from his neighbors because he did not need hand-outs. I replied,

There would be no thanks for goodness if we refuse it. He then allowed the nurses and neighbors to care for him... He learned to love and give back to others."

Rose Ella attended the September 2012 Alumni Breakfast and then-president **Marilyn Hammett Gentry '78** wrote this in the Alumni News that fall: "Rose Ella surprised us all by attending the Breakfast in full uniform including cap and cape. She also donated several items of Charity memorabilia to the Association, including her school pin, and spoke for a few moments about how she hasn't let Parkinson's disease slow her down. I just love her... it was such a delight and an honor to have her there with us."



Rose Ella passed away in June 2018 and was buried in her nursing scrubs. "Nursing was her life," says her sister Judy. "That was everything to her." ❖

Left, Rose Ella as a senior at Charity; right, at the 2012 Alumni Breakfast.

From the Executive Director

By Lista Hank '97

After the 2012 Luncheon, Rose Ella donated her cape to us to be used to raise money for the students. We would love to have her cape to include in a display of her belongings outside the new Skills Lab which will bear her name. If you got a cape from the Alumni Association by auction or raffle or purchase, please look for the name "Chenevert" embroidered inside. We will trade you for another cape, or if you prefer to loan it, put a notice with your name on the display to say you loaned it.

Ursula and I made a few car trips to New Roads to take ownership of Rose Ella's house and to arrange to sell it. Ursula suggested we bury a St. Joseph statue in the front yard, and it definitely worked! We think Rose Ella put a word in for us, too!

There will be no Spring Luncheon to give us more time to prepare for Homecoming - and you can save your pennies so you can attend in October! All the details on Homecoming will be in the 2020 *White Cap*, but mark your calendar now for October 17 and 18.

Have a great New Year - and see you in October! ❖

2020 Election Candidate Biographies

SECRETARY CANDIDATE - Unopposed



Joycelyn Gondolfo Jeansonne ‘78: Active in the Alumni Association since the 1980s, Joycelyn has served on the Board, as President, and currently as Secretary, a position she has held since 2012. She is on the Scholarship Committee, and she and her husband Kevin sponsor the Jeansonne Scholarship every semester. She has a BSN from Northwestern, a MN from LSUMC, and a post-graduate NNP certification from LSUMC. She was Supervisor of PICU at Big Charity before moving to Alexandria where she taught Pediatric Nursing at LSU Alexandria. Joycelyn guest lectures at Louisiana College, volunteers at the Alexandria Museum of Art, and has been Secretary, President and Captain of the Krewe of Medea, an Alexandria Mardi Gras krewe.

BOARD MEMBER CANDIDATES - Two positions - Unopposed

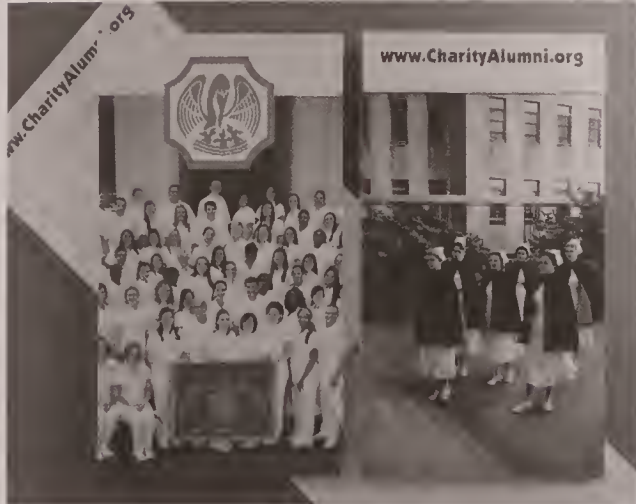


Vivian Larkin Manes ‘70: Vivian is a board certified nurse case manager with twenty-plus years of experience, currently working for a private rehab company. She has been a board member of the Case Management Society of America and a member of the American Society of Pain Management Nursing. She has been an active member of the Alumni Association for many years, serving on the Nominating Committee, Advisory Committee, and currently as a Board Member. “I remain committed to a strong and dynamic alumni, focusing on support and encouragement of Charity students.” Vivian lives in Metairie, LA.



Judy LaFleur Ross ‘68: Judy worked full time for thirty-four years at Charity Hospital in the Medical ICU, Infectious Disease unit, and in Nursing Education and Staff Development. After retiring she worked as a pool nurse two to three days a week for thirteen years in Charity’s various outpatient clinics. Judy has been an active member of the Alumni Association for many years and served for the past several years on the Alumni Association’s Advisory Committee. Judy lives in Harahan, LA. ❖

Renew Your Membership!



Your membership dues help us to support the current students of Charity with scholarships and emergency assistance grants, help with archival preservation of our historical documents and photos, fund our Alumni office so we can continue to publish newsletters twice a year, keep up our database, and maintain our website. All of this allows us to keep in touch with you and thousands of other Charity graduates throughout the country, and keeps the spirit of Charity alive through the many generations of alumni. All that for only \$15 in annual dues!

As a paid member, you are entitled to vote in elections for new Board members and officers. You receive the *White Cap* each spring, and the *Alumni News* each fall.

Renew your Alumni Association membership at the \$25 level or above and you will be listed in the 2020 *White Cap* as a “Member of Note,” plus you’ll receive your choice of gifts: a 2020-21 personalized pocket planner, a handy 3" x 5" notepad, or a vintage postcard of the dorm. Use the form on page 19, or pay securely online at our website:

www.CharityAlumni.org

Left, top to bottom: 2020-21 pocket planner and 3" x 5" flip-top notepad; right: vintage postcard of old dorm.



CHSNAA MEMBERSHIP FORM

Check your mailing label for the year your membership expires. Use this form to renew, or to make a donation.

PLEASE WRITE CLEARLY!

Class of: _____

Name _____
First name Maiden/graduating name Last name

Address: _____

Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Cell Home

Email: _____

I Want to Contribute to:

Alumni Scholarship Fund.....\$ _____
 CASN Convention Travel Fund.....\$ _____
 Student Emergency Assistance Fund.....\$ _____
 Art & Archives Preservation Fund.....\$ _____
 Other: _____ \$ _____

Annual Membership Dues:

- ☐ \$15 Regular Membership
☐ \$25 Blue Ribbon Member*
☐ \$50 Silver Star Member*
☐ \$100 Sr. Stanislaus Member*

- ☐ Sustaining Member: a one-time gift of \$500
 (and never pay dues again).*

*Members at these levels, please select your choice of:

- ☐ Personalized 2020-21 Alumni pocket calendar
☐ Alumni notepad
☐ Vintage postcard of the old Charity Dorm
☐ No gift, please.

Mail to: **CHSN Alumni Association**

Delgado Charity School of Nursing
 450 South Claiborne Ave, New Orleans, LA 70112.

You can write one check for your membership dues and any donations. You can mail your ballot in the same envelope as well. You can also do everything (except vote) online at

www.CharityAlumni.org

INSTRUCTIONS FOR VOTING

Candidate bios are on page 18. Circle your selections on the Ballot at right, cut it out along the dotted lines, and fold it in half to protect the privacy of your vote. Place it in an envelope and mail to the CHSN Alumni Association.

You may include the membership form and your dues in the same mailing envelope. Your Ballot will be placed in a secure ballot box immediately upon receipt.

Ballots must be received in the Alumni Office no later than January 31, 2020, to be counted.

CHECK YOUR MAILING LABEL

Only current members are eligible to vote. Check your mailing label for your membership status. The four-digit number adjacent to your name on your mailing label indicates the year your membership expires. If you see "2019" beside your name, it means your membership expires at the end of 2019. You can vote in this election, but may want to consider renewing your membership now for 2020.

If your label has a "0" or a year earlier than 2019, you are overdue to pay your membership, and you should send a check along with your ballot.

If the number on your label is 2019 or greater, or if it is 9999, 8888 or 7777 (special membership categories like Lifetime or Sustaining), then you do NOT need to renew your membership and you can go ahead and vote. ❖

2020

ELECTION BALLOT

DIRECTIONS: Circle the names of the candidates of your choice. Cut out the ballot, fold and mail. You can include in the same envelope with your dues.

SECRETARY CANDIDATE

JOYCELYN JEANSONNE '78

BOARD MEMBER CANDIDATES

Two Positions

VIVIAN MANES '70

JUDY ROSS '68

Check one:

- ☐ I am current on my membership dues.
☐ I am renewing my membership today.

Mail your ballot to: **CHSN Alumni Association**,
 Delgado Charity School of Nursing
 450 South Claiborne Ave, New Orleans, LA 70112

Charity Hospital School of Nursing
ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

Delgado Charity School of Nursing
450 South Claiborne Avenue
New Orleans, Louisiana 70112

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

**What is that number
by my name?**

The four-digit number adjacent to your name on your mailing label indicates the year your membership expires. For example, “2019” next to your name means your membership expires at the end of 2019. You are current, but you may want to consider renewing your membership now for 2020.

If your label has a “0” or a year earlier than 2019 (such as “2015”), you are overdue! Please join or renew your membership now.

If the numbers on your label are 9999, 8888 or 7777, you are in a special membership category (Lifetime, Sustaining) and you do NOT need to renew your membership.

To renew your membership, use the form on page 19, or go online to:

www.CharityAlumni.org

Mark your calendar for
HOMECOMING 2020
October 17 & 18, 2020

Cut out the box below and put on your bulletin board or refrigerator. You’ll always be able to find the information you need to keep in touch!



Charity Hospital School of Nursing
Alumni Association

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New Orleans, LA 70112
504-571-1395

Email: **chsnaaoffice@gmail.com**

Website: **www.CharityAlumni.org**

Facebook: **Charity Alumni NOLA**

Photo Share Site:
<https://charityalumni.shutterfly.com/>

